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THE HASTINGS BANNER

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Community mourns the death of philanthropist Earlene Baum



Earlene Baum

Molly Macleod
Editor

The community is in mourning after former Hastings Fiber Glass Products owner Earlene Baum, 87, died last week after a private battle with cancer. The Baum family matriarch is remembered for her kindness, faith, philanthropy, volunteerism, hard-working spirit and much more.

Born June 6, 1937, Anieta "Earlene" Baum joins her husband of 67 years, Larry Baum, after dying on Thursday, March 27. Larry passed away in December 2023. The high school sweethearts, both members of the Hastings High School Class of 1955, married in 1956.

Earlene and Larry moved back to Hastings in 1959 after a short stint in Kansas while Larry served in the United States Air Force. Once back in Hastings, she and Larry helped her father, Earl McMullin, start his new business, Hastings Fiber Glass Products.

Eventually, Earlene and Larry took over her father's company. Earlene filled her mother Virginia's role as controller and worked for the company for over 65 years. Her friends say she was still picking up mail for the factory as recently as two weeks ago.

The Baums have been credited as being instrumental in the creation of the Thornapple Plaza entertainment complex on downtown Hastings' east side; in the Baum Dialysis Center which saves patients from having to seek care in Grand Rapids or other larger cities; in the performing arts center attached to the high school that hosts regionally notable music and acts; in the automotive skills development program at the Gilmore Car Museum; in a new lodge at YMCA Camp Algonquin along with a powerful endowment fund to provide scholarships for campers; and in a myriad of other causes supporting those in need in Barry County.

Those who knew and loved Earlene had a central theme when talking about her, that she was a special woman who leaves big shoes to fill.

"Earlene was a very special person. Always kind, gracious and radiating a spark of positivity," said retired

See **BAUM** on 2

Over 5,600 cyclists expected for this month's Barry-Roubaix in Hastings



Cyclists take off from the start/finish line on Green Street in Hastings last year during the annual Barry-Roubaix cycling race. The event returns this year on April 12, marking its 16th year. **File photos by Jayson Bussa**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

If the annual Barry-Roubaix cycling race was a person, it would be getting its driver's license this year.

The gravel cycling race, which kicks off in the City of Hastings before sending riders weaving through Barry County's miles of dirt roads, is slated for April 12 this year and will be celebrating its Sweet 16 anniversary.

The event comes from humble beginnings and, at the time expected to be a one-off event that was originally staged near Gun Lake before organizers moved the start/stop line into the city as the field of riders dramatically grew.

"It's not super common," Matt Acker, one of the race organizers, said about the longevity of the event. "Our event predates people really even talking about gravel cycling. When the event was made, it was kind of a one-off. People were like 'What is this? We're just going to go down dirt roads all day?'"

That's exactly what riders are in for at the Barry-Roubaix, which leverages the miles and miles of dirt roads that bring travelers throughout the Gun Lake area before sending them south.

The Barry-Roubaix features races of four different distances — 18, 36, 62 and 100 miles. Despite the fact that it draws professional riders from throughout the world, it is designed to be welcoming for riders of all ages and skill levels.

"It's been more important to us to maintain that down-home feel and be beginner-friendly," Acker said. "We see a lot of Hastings residents participate, which didn't always seem to be the case."

See **CYCLISTS** on 4

Severe weather system causes little damage in Barry County

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Barry County seems to have weathered a severe weather system, one that included thunderstorms, high winds and even tornadoes, that rolled through parts of southwest Michigan on Sunday, March 30, better than most without any residents being harmed.

Pattrick Jansens, Barry County Emergency Management director, said as of Tuesday afternoon that as many as 6,000 local residents were still without power as the result of the storm.

"People have been impacted," Jansens said. "Lots of power lines down."

According to Jansens, the storm damaged several homes and other structures, such as barns, which were hit by downed trees and limbs. News reports stated as many as five tornadoes touched down in the region, though none were sighted in Barry County.

"Our deputies were consumed with weather-related calls from trees and wires down, to accidents and a grass fire," said Barry County Undersheriff Kevin Erb. "Damage to property from falling trees and limbs was noted throughout the county.

"Fortunately, there were no reported injuries due to the weather."

Jake Welch, Barry County Road Commission managing director, said the system seemingly hit the

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A young Larry (right) and Earlene (middle) Baum are carted around Hastings in a 1914 Apperson Jackrabbit after tying the knot in 1956. The car belonged to Baum's father, Lawrence, who paid $150 for it and spent an additional $1,500 restoring the rare vehicle. **File photos**



The Baum family (pictured), led by Larry and Earlene Baum (center), has consistently supported Hastings Area Schools, along with the HPAC and community for many years. To honor and show appreciation for the Baums, Friends of the HPAC decided to name the auditorium inside the facility after Larry and Earlene Baum. Pictured are (from left) Jason Baum, Becky McGowan, Susie Baum, Dave Baum, Larry Baum, Earlene Baum, Tim Pederson, Karen Pederson, Brian Baum, Tauri Baum, Nick Baum and Mallory Berg.

BAUM

Continued from Page 1

Hastings Fiber Glass controller Don Stavale. "I had the unique opportunity of sharing an office and working closely with her for most of my 29 years at HFGP. During these years, we had wonderful conversations about her parents and the history of HFGP.

"She was very proud of her family and the company but never too busy to inquire about my family as well. I was fortunate to work side by side with her for so many years," Stavale added.

The Baums took having a family business to another level, considering the many employees at HFGP as family.

"I consider myself extremely fortunate to be in my position that I was in the company and with the family," said Dave Russell, HFGP president. "So very blessed to be a part of some of the stuff that they did and still is going on and they're still doing."

The Baums' impact on the community will be felt for generations, Russell added. And their absence will be felt, too.

"This is a big one for the company itself. I know Larry and Earlene are considered second generation, but they were part of the founding, too," Russell said. "But that's gone now."

"Earlene and Larry both, everything they did, they had the thought of, 'How is this going to help Barry County and Hastings?' Her mind was always thinking about 'What could be better for Hastings?' And she, and Larry also, did a lot of things that nobody ever realized that they did. That was the beauty of it – they didn't always have to be honored for it," he added. "She was a big believer of doing things and nobody knew about it. She just did it because she knew that's what you're supposed to do – not that she was going to get a reward for it."

Russell echoed others' high praises of Earlene.

"She's one of the few people in life that I don't know anybody, when she was here and now that she's gone, that ever had anything bad to say about her. That doesn't happen very often," he said.

Earlene, a serial volunteer, spent much of her time serving on various boards throughout the county. She spent 20 years on the Hastings City Bank Board of Directors and also holds the distinction of being the first woman to serve on the board.

She was also a member of local organizations including the Hastings Women's Club, served as president of the Hastings Camp Fire Council, the Barry Community Foundation's grant committee, as well as YMCA and United Way boards.

"In 1996, I met Earlene when she became a member of the newly formed Barry Community Foundation grant committee," said Bonnie Gettys, president and CEO of the BCF. "Earlene was a community champion, leader and visionary. I will remember her with gratitude for all that she and Larry accomplished for our community."

Dave Baum, Earlene's son, retold something a friend said to him recently sticks out in his mind when describing his mother.

"He said, 'She was a lady of class, grace and kindness.' And I thought, man, that hits home and describes her very well," he said.

"She always cared more about others than herself," Dave added.

Dave's brother, Kevin, said they were lucky to have Earlene as a parent.

"Karen, David and I were very blessed to have Earlene as our mom," Kevin said. "She took great care of us and did many things to make us feel valued, such as preparing school lunches, attending our extra-curricular activities, volunteering and taking us on fun and adventurous vacations. Later, she was similarly involved with her six grandchildren, giving them a lifetime of fond memories including an African safari.

"She was also a very kind and forgiving person. When we would misbehave, she never got angry or gave harsh punishment. She would gently express her disappointment and remind us we were capable of doing better," he added.

Jim and Mary Atkinson say they knew Larry and Earlene for 53 years.

"She was the most gentle, sweet, kind person," Mary said. "In all these years of being her friend, I have never, ever, one time heard her say anything negative about anyone ever."

"I remember her as (living) a very kind, faith-based life all her life," Jim added.

The Atkinsons said Earlene and Larry acted as a team all throughout their lives – and their philanthropic efforts were no exception.

"She was a major part of decisions on all of their philanthropic things," Jim said.

"She loved her community, she loved the business and the people that worked for her," Mary said.

"We need a whole lot more of her in this world. We really, really do," said Jim. "She will be very missed in this county."

"In this community," Mary added. "By her friends."

Audrey Deming spent much of her life living as a neighbor to Earlene and said the two were best friends.

"We had great times through our life," Deming said. "We were like sisters – and we talked about that, too, because I didn't have one and she didn't have one. And we'd always tell each other everything.

"She was a very special person. I don't know anybody else of all the people I know that are anything like her. She's made out of a certain mold, I guess."

Flexfab co-founder Doug DeCamp worked with Earlene's father at Orchard Industries before they both went on to found their separate companies.

"Mac (Earl) and I worked together at Orchard Industries before each of us started our personal companies," said DeCamp on behalf of himself and his wife, Margaret. "The community of Hastings and Barry County has been blessed by the generosity of the Baum and McMullin families.

"Due to their generosity, they've left behind a legacy for the community through their contributions to health care, the schools, entertainment at the Hastings High School Performing Arts Center, and the Thornapple Plaza in downtown Hastings. Due to their generosity, they've enriched the lives of all of us by giving back to the community they loved. Now Larry, Earl, Virginia and your brother, Earl Jr. welcome Earlene, to the New World as Jesus opens the gates to say, 'Welcome home, true and faithful servants.'"

The Baums were praised for their dedication to the community.

"'We love Hastings, and we're fortunate to be able to help improve our community whenever we can,' were words often spoken by Earlene Baum," said Fred Jacobs, CEO of J-Ad Graphics. "She and her late husband, Larry, were generous donors to so many things throughout the community, leaving a lasting legacy for all of us to enjoy.

"She was one of those behind-the-scenes leaders that kept her finger on the company and was dedicated to its success," Jacobs added. "Earlene was a caring person, always willing to help others when asked. … Every life has its story, but some leave a legacy that can last forever."

Though Earlene will be remembered as a force in Barry County, her family and friends know sides to her not seen by the public. Karen Pederson remembers her mom's passions for fishing, music and sweets.

"When there was cake in the house, she'd eat it for breakfast, tell us kids she was setting a bad example, and then relegate us to oatmeal and cereal," Pederson recalled.

Though she had many loves and passions, Pederson said faith was paramount in Earlene's life.

"Faith was first and foremost to Mom," she said. "One night in the early '70s, we had an unusual experience that only reinforced her beliefs. We were driving home from Grand Rapids in the dark, and the fog was so bad you could see nothing. My brother, Kevin, was laying across the back seat sleeping, and then a car hit us head-on.

"Everything became surreal, like the Twilight Zone, and we didn't even know what had happened. Next, there was a knock on Mom's window. When she managed to roll it down, Reverend Curtis, our family pastor for many years, was standing there. He had come across the accident and was checking on the people in the vehicles.

"Mom always believed it was divine intervention and that God had kept us safe because he had greater plans in store for her – and indeed he did."

A visitation for Baum will be held from 10 a.m. to noon tomorrow, Friday, April 4, at the First Presbyterian Church in Hastings. The visitation will be immediately followed by a funeral service at noon.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Earlene's memory can be made out to the Barry Community Foundation or the YMCA of Barry County.

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MIDDLEVILLE'S NEWEST DIGS

Construction is underway at the site of Barry County's newest housing development. The MidVilla Flats, once complete, will be home to 144 one- and two-bedroom apartments ranging from 1,000 to 1,200 square feet in size. The workforce housing apartments will be spread between six three-story buildings on the site of the former Middle Villa Inn. Dutch Developers LLC plans to spend $25 million on the project. Pictured here ceremonially breaking ground last week are the project's construction partners and various elected officials from the village and township. **Courtesy photo**

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View Newspaper Group announces launch of St. Clair Area View

ST. CLAIR — Leadership at View Newspaper Group is proud to announce the launch of the St. Clair Area View, which will first land in mailboxes on Friday, May 9, 2025.

"Our team is excited to bring this free, locally-owned community newspaper to readers in the St. Clair area," said View Newspaper Group Publisher Wes Smith. "The St. Clair Area View will connect readers to their community and our advertising clients to our readers, just as our other 21 locally-owned newspapers across the state do."

With the launch of the St. Clair Area View, View Newspaper Group is now home to 22 locally-owned, locally-connected newspapers across the state, further solidifying the group's position as Michigan's largest, independently owned newspaper group.

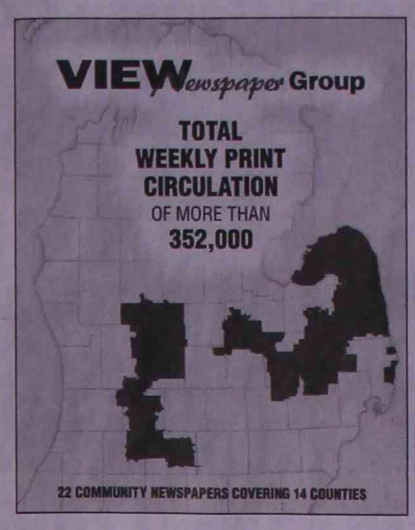
Founded in 2003 by Lapeer native Rick Burrough, View Newspaper Group's community newspapers have more than 352,000 copies in print each week covering 14 counties including: Lapeer, Oakland, Genesee, Livingston, Sanilac, Huron, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Montcalm, Ionia, Barry, Calhoun, Kent and St. Clair.

"At a time when some newspaper companies are cutting back, we are happy to say we continue to grow," said Burrough. "We saw a need for a local newspaper in the St. Clair area and after a lot of research and meeting with community members, we knew we were the right news organization to make that happen."

The St. Clair Area View will include coverage of area schools, local governments, nonprofits, businesses, high school sports, community members and much more. It will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service to 17,000 homes in the St. Clair area two times a month. A digital version will also be available for free at www.mihomepaper.com.

View Newspaper Group Reporter and Community Relations Manager Casey Johnson has been named Editor of the St. Clair Area View. Johnson began her career with View Newspaper Group in 2011 as an intern at The County Press in Lapeer, while earning her journalism degree at Oakland University. Johnson worked in community journalism in Huron County until 2015, when she went back to school to obtain her state license in therapeutic massage. She practiced massage therapy full-time until joining the Sanilac County News in 2022.

View Newspaper Group Sports Editor Mike Gallagher will lead the St. Clair Area View in local sports coverage. A 2012 graduate of Peck High School, Gallagher played varsity football, baseball and track and junior varsity basketball. After high school, he attended Delta College and St. Clair Community College, where he was managing editor-in-chief of the SC4 student newspaper. He covered local sports for newspapers in Tuscola and Huron counties before joining the Sanilac County News as sports editor in 2019.



BCAOK fundraiser draws new high in attendance

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Barry County Act of Kindness' annual "Cabin Fever" fundraiser hit new highs, according to organizers, with an estimated 300 people attending the event at the Barry County Expo on Saturday, March 29.

BCAOK, a local nonprofit organization, was formed by former members of the Hastings Elk Club with a focus on serving Barry County veterans. And, the Cabin Fever event is possibly the group's largest fundraiser of the year, said Don Converse, BCAOK president.

"We were pushing 300 (in attendance)," Converse said, adding that the fundraiser drew about 200-plus people last year. "People ran out of seating, but we got more tables and had plenty of food.

"The band (Onager) was awesome," he added. "We raised quite a bit of money also."

According to Converse, the dinner and dance helped raise "roughly" $10,000 in support of Barry County veterans.

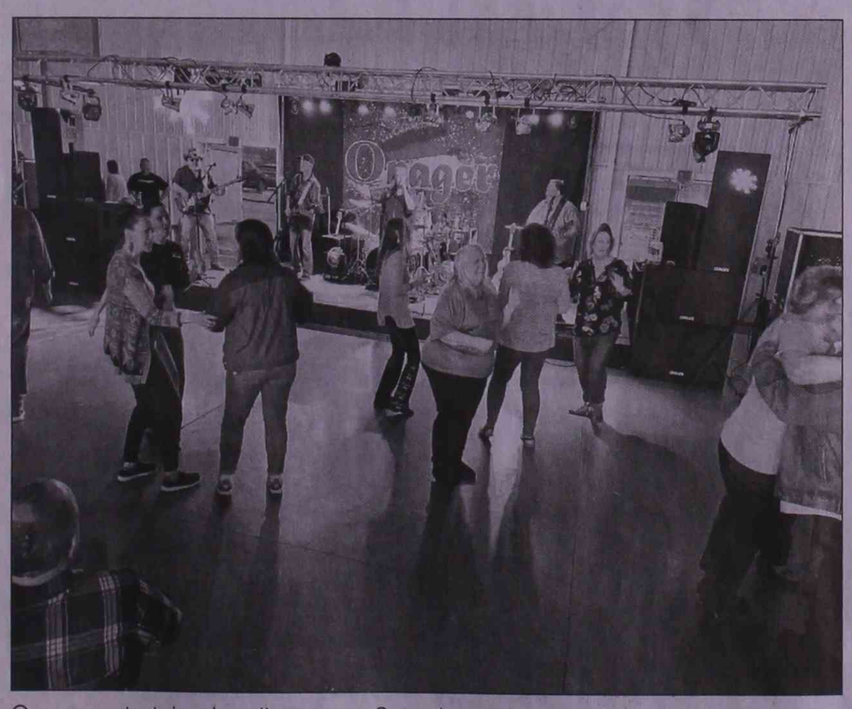
"But we have not gotten all the bills paid yet," Converse said. "No official number, but it is looking great."

"Barry County Acts of Kindness would like to thank everyone who came to the event," he added. "There was such a large turnout from the community supporting our local veterans. It was awesome to see so many."

For more information on BCAOK, visit the group's website at barrycountyaok.org.



The Barry County Act of Kindness annual "Cabin Fever" fundraiser set records in attendance this year, drawing roughly 300 people. **Courtesy photos**



Onager entertained audiences on Saturday at the annual Barry County Act of Kindness "Cabin Fever" fundraiser.



The Barry County Acts of Kindness club hosted its annual fundraiser last weekend supporting Barry County veterans. Raffle prizes at the fundraiser included kayaks, a 36-inch griddle and a two-night stay at the Bay Pointe resort.



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Time for some financial spring cleaning

Spring is here — which means it's once again time to wash the windows, organize your cabinets and steam your carpets. This year, in addition to tidying up around your house, why not also consider some financial spring cleaning?

Here are some suggestions to consider:

• *"De-clutter" your investment portfolio.* When you embark on your home cleaning mission, you might notice that you have redundancies — three blenders, two vacuum cleaners, and so on. Similarly, you might find duplications in your investment portfolio, perhaps in the form of multiple, near-identical stocks or mutual funds. If so, then it might be worthwhile to consider selling some of these investments and using the proceeds to boost your portfolio in other areas in which you may be lacking.

• *Cut back on "overgrown" investments.* Now that winter is over and you're venturing outside more, you may notice some overgrown shrubbery or some tree branches that need pruning. And while it may sound counterintuitive, you might also have some investments that have grown too big for your needs. For example, you might own some growth-oriented investments whose value has increased so much that they now take up a larger percentage of your portfolio — and carry a higher degree of risk — than you originally intended. If that's the case, you might be better off by selling some of these investments and purchasing others to help bring your investment mix back to its desired alignment.

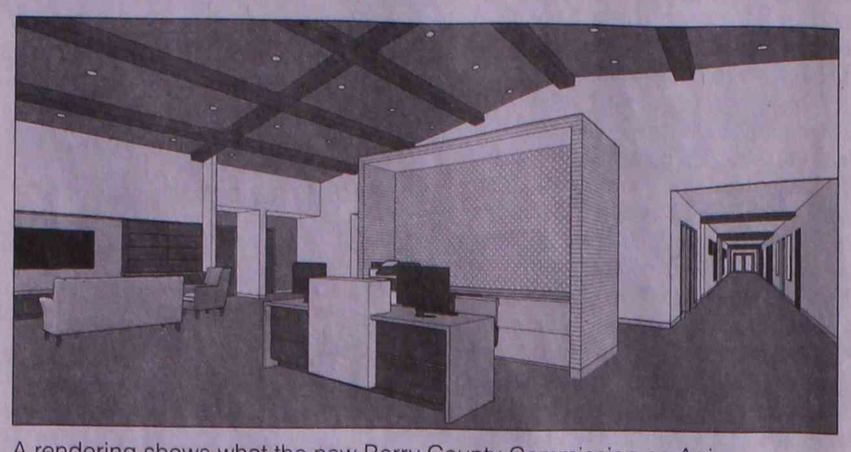
• *Dust off your investment strategy.* With more sunlight now pouring in your house, you might notice that the corners of your walls and ceiling may need a good dusting. And as you continually work to strengthen your financial foundation, you may need to dust off your investment strategy, especially if you've recently experienced changes in your life, such as a marriage, addition of children, new job, and so on. And as you move closer to retirement, you may also need to adjust your strategy in some ways. For one thing, you might want to adopt a more conservative investment approach in the years immediately preceding your retirement, though you'll still need to have some growth potential in your portfolio to help keep you ahead of inflation.

• *Protect yourself from financial dangers.* As you go about your household spring cleaning, you may find actual physical dangers that need to be removed or stored more safely, such as sharp objects or broken tools. And as you navigate daily life, you may also find threats to your financial safety — the need for an expensive home improvement, or a major car repair or an unexpectedly large medical bill. If you don't have the money available to pay these expenses, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts or run up your credit card or take out a high-rate loan. To protect yourself from having to make these moves, you may want to maintain an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account, separate from those you use for your daily living expenses.

Of course, some of these moves can take some time — but by getting started on them soon, you can help put your financial house in better shape by the time the next spring cleaning rolls around.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Barry County COA announces final push for capital campaign



A rendering shows what the new Barry County Commission on Aging reception area will look like once complete. **Images provided**



The new Barry County Commission on Aging building will offer a larger dining room.

The Barry County Commission on Aging announced the final push for its capital campaign this week. The campaign, "Paving the Way to Our New Home," will support the completion of a new activity and resource center near the corner of McKeown Road and M-79 highway in Hastings. This facility will be the new home for the COA.

"One of the benefits of the new location includes the addition of local production of Meals on Wheels meals, allowing for greater inclusion of fresh, local produce. In addition to that, keeping this program in Barry County pumps an additional $350,000 into the local economy, annually," said Barry County COA executive director Courtney Ziny.

The new design also expands the space for Adult Day Service programming for those with Alzheimer's, dementia or other memory issues, creating additional respite opportunities for caregivers. It will nearly double the area for exercise and fitness classes, offer an expanded seating and visiting area and will create a larger dining room. There will also be outdoor green space for open air activities, socialization, and entertainment.

"As we prepare to take a significant step forward with the project groundbreaking, we find ourselves in urgent need of your support," said Ziny. "We are just $700,000 away from reaching our fundraising goals and need your help to secure these final funds."

Ziny said every contribution, no matter the size, helps the COA reach its goal.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support we've received so far, but we still have work to do," she said. "This final push is crucial as we strive to create a space that will benefit countless individuals in our community. Together, we can make a lasting impact."

Donations can be made online at barrycf.org/funds/barry-county-coa-building-project-fund/ or by contacting Barry County COA at 269-948-4856.

For more information about the capital campaign, go to barrycounty.org/coa or contact Ziny at 269-948-4856 or cziny@barrycounty.org. — *MM*

Trumble Insurance settles in at new location

Molly Macleod
Editor

Zach Santmier and his team at Trumble Insurance Agency are settling in at their new digs in Hastings. The new location was fully operational as of Tuesday this week.

Santmier, owner and CEO of Trumble, said he and his team are stretching their legs in the space, located at the corner of Jefferson and Court streets in Hastings.

"It's very open. Before, we were very crammed into a small space. When people walked in, it was like, boom, you're immediately within the earshot of six people. Right now, when you walk in, the whole center space is totally open. There's a huge living room, there's a large kitchen, a really large reception desk. It's just a lot more open, a lot more airy," Santmier said.

He said one exciting feature in the new space is a "living wall" made up of several vining plants. Greenery is featured throughout the space.

"It just kind of gives that real homey feel, and just a real, kind of sigh of relief, breath of fresh air sort of feel to it," Santmier said.

Tuesday's move marks a milestone for Trumble after purchasing the building in October.

"We want to be a fixture in the community for the long haul," said Santmier in a previous interview. "As I think about the future of our business and where we're at historically, next year being our 50th anniversary, we really wanted to be able to be a corner piece — not just small little offices kind of spread out throughout Barry County as we had before."

Trumble's new location in the former County Seat building isn't far from its old location around the corner at 138 W. State Street. The Barry County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Alliance is taking Trumble's place at the building on State Street.

No stone was left unturned during the renovation process, Santmier said.



Staff at Trumble Insurance Agency are settling in at their new offices on Jefferson Street. The move comes after a six-month interior renovation was completed on the first level of the historic building. **Courtesy photo**

Though he and his team spearheaded much of the project themselves, Santmier said crucial help came from local subcontractors. Their expertise and quick turnarounds helped keep the project on track.

"It's pretty cool. It's been a lot — you know, a six-month interior renovation of 5,000 square feet. We got it locked in, and it's really nice. People have been coming in all day," Santmier said on Tuesday.

"It does feel like a breath of fresh air I think for our team, but also for our clients. As people walk in, I think they're shocked to see the transformation," Santmier said.

Though Santmier and his team celebrated the completion of the office's main space this week, there is still more work to be done on the historic building. He said façade work and work on the upstairs offices will be complete by the end of summer. Trumble will host an open house celebration showing off the new building during Hastings Summerfest in August.

In the meantime, Santmier said folks are welcome to stop in and check out the new office space at 128 S. Jefferson Street. Trumble Insurance Agency is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



The Barry-Roubaix stands as the largest gravel cycling race in the world and will feature a field of 5,675 riders this year.

CYCLISTS

Continued from Page 1

Not only is Barry-Roubaix a long-running event, but it is the biggest of its kind in the world — officially.

Up about 5 percent from last year, this year's race will feature 5,675 participants. While Barry-Roubaix was often billed as one of the largest races of its kind in the world, this number solidifies it as such.

"There has been a year or two where (Barry-Roubaix) was neck-and-neck with another event," Acker explained. "We're beyond that, now. Not that it's a competition but it's a pretty neat thing to make the claim for Michigan and the city of Hastings. We're proud of it."

"It's not something that we go around plastering everywhere," Acker added. "I think we had great success in just being ourselves. Our event in some ways flies under the radar with the international community. It's not as well-known as some of the big races but they also spend a lot of money advertising, which results in a higher race entry fee."

The growth in the Barry-Roubaix has been steady, too. Organizers could have opened the floodgates for this event, which sells out in a matter of days if not hours, but they have limited it to 3 to 5 percent growth each year and have kept a dialogue with city and county officials to ensure that the scale of the event does not cause any issues.

This year, like the races before it, features a waiting list of riders.

"We're mindful of the fact that this more or less takes over the city for the weekend and we're not trying to blow the whole city up where no one can do anything," Acker said.

For a full race day schedule, and the event leading up to the Barry-Roubaix, visit barry-roubaix.com.

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Senior Academy Awards | Sun, 4/27 | 5:00 pm
Elementary Musicals | Mon-Thu, Apr 28-May 1 | 6:30 pm

NWS confirms tornado touched down in nearby Gaines Twp. on Sunday



The twister did extensive damage to a barn and some outbuildings at a farm in Caledonia.

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Many residents in nearby Gaines Township and the surrounding area were left to clean up after a severe weather system, which reportedly included at least three tornados, swept through parts of southwest Michigan on Sunday, March 30.

Damage in the Caledonia and Dutton areas was spawned by a line of thunderstorms that brought heavy rain and high winds that uprooted trees and snapped power poles.

National Weather Service officials confirmed a twister touched down at 5:42 p.m. Sunday near 100th Street and Eastern Avenue, and traveled 4.2 miles in a northeasterly direction before dissipating near 84th Street and Hanna Lake Avenue at 5:47 p.m.

The NWS labeled the weather event as an EF-0 tornado, as it reportedly packed an estimated maximum sustained wind velocity of 80 mph and cut a swath of up to 150 yards wide.

During its five minutes on the ground, the twister inflicted significant damage to barns and outbuildings, toppling some of the structures. It also uprooted several trees and spewed debris.

"I'm just happy nobody was hurt," Gaines Township resident Timothy Zandbergen. "It damaged a lot of barns."

Zandbergen said the tornado tore off the roof of a barn on his property, located on the south side of 76th Street, between East Paris and Patterson avenues, in the Caledonia area.

"We did not have any animals there at the time, so that was fortunate," he added.

Zandbergen also said two barns on a neighbor's property on the north side of the road were leveled by the tornado and another barn was damaged.

And, the tornado damaged structures along 92nd Street near Kalamazoo Avenue.

The tornado touched down within two miles of where another EF-O tornado hit Gaines Township on April 11, 2021, near 100th Street and Eastern Avenue. NWS officials said that one traveled about half a mile with top winds of 80 mph.

The thunderstorms that whipped through southwest Michigan on Sunday, combined with a major ice storm in northern Michigan the night before, left more than 320,000 homes and businesses without power statewide.

If that wasn't enough, the NWS confirmed an EF-1 tornado near Edwardsburg in Cass County on Sunday. That twister packed 100-mph winds, traveled about two miles and damaged several homes and businesses during the three minutes it was on the ground. It also ripped the roof off a local marina and damaged boats.

The NWS confirmed yet another tornado touching down Sunday, stating a EF-0 twister spun off around 6:05 p.m. north of 120th Street, near Poplar Avenue, east of Grant. The tornado reportedly was on the ground for about four minutes, or just under 3 miles, and had top winds of 65 mph.



What is left of a barn blown down on 76th Street west of Patterson Avenue after an EF-0 tornado went through Gaines Township on March 30. **Photos provided**

Legal advice offered at no cost to Barry County seniors

The Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office will conduct over-the-phone interviews for legal advice and possible representation, without charge, to interested Barry County seniors this month.

Those who wish to speak with an attorney should call the 269-224-5040 between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Friday, April 11.

Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office is a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance, representation and education to low-income people in Calhoun and Branch counties and seniors in Barry, Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph counties. The advice and counsel is funded primarily by the Area Agency on Aging Region 3B through the Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency under the Older Americans Act of 1965. — *MM*

Pollinator workshop slated for April 13

Area residents can learn what they can do to help save birds, butterflies and other pollinators at a free workshop later this month.

Michigan State University Pollinator Champion and Master Gardener Robbin Glass will lead the pollinator workshop on Sunday, April 13, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Attendees of the class will learn about pollinators and their importance to our everyday lives. Glass will discuss why many species of birds, butterflies and other pollinators are declining in number. She will also discuss how each of us can help prevent further habitat loss and extinction.

The workshop will be held at the Hastings SDA School at 904 Terry Lane in Hastings.

All are welcome to attend the class; there is no need to register. For more information, contact Glass at 517-652-3056. — *MM*

SEVERE

Continued from Page 1

southwest corner of Barry County the hardest, in areas including Hickory Corners and Middleville.

"It was a bad storm," Welch said. "(But) it wasn't too bad of a storm for us."

The BCRC deployed extra crew members to help deal with any storm damage and help clear debris from county roadways.

"We had a bunch of trees across roads," Welch said. "That was only temporary.

"I'm not aware of anything that was closed longer than Monday morning," he added. "We're back to business as normal for us."

Timing might have also played a role in Barry County's good fortune in riding out the storm. Welch said there were no reports of any flooding across county roads due in part to the fact that most or all of the snow in the area had melted a couple of weeks ago.

"That's the one that will catch you," he said, referring to the combination of spring thaws and early season rains sometimes causing local flooding.

Beside dealing with Sunday's storm, Barry County officials are watching events further north. According to Welch, road crews from neighboring Kent County are heading north to assist with cleanup efforts in Lower Northern Michigan, which was hit by an ice storm over the weekend that left thousands without power.

So far, Welch added the BCRC has not received any such request, though the county agency stands ready to respond.

"We'd do what we could to help," he said.

And, with more inclement weather expected during the week, Jansens said he is encouraging local residents to "have a plan" and "be prepared."

Jansens added that Barry County residents may find tips on how to weather severe storms and other related information on the BCEM's Facebook page.

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aubree Lee Kay Longway, born at Corewell Health Pennock on February 19, 2025 to Ashley Dulyea and Skyler Longway of Hastings.

*****

Hadley, born at Corewell Health Pennock on February 27, 2025 to Kristen Smith and Nolan Smith of Bellevue.

*****

Lincoln Michael Scobey, born at Corewell Health Pennock on February 28, 2025 to Paulina Scobey and Carson Scobey of Lake Odessa.

*****

Amelia Rose Pluchinsky, born at Corewell Health Pennock on March 20, 2025 to Jessie Wolthuis and Kendal Pluchinsky of Bellevue.

*****

Grace Elaine Cortright, born at Corewell Health Pennock on March 20, 2025 to Sarah Cortright and Phillip Cortright of Hastings.

*****

Wilder Lee Swanson, born at Corewell Health Pennock on March 23, 2025 to Lindsay Swanson and Neal Swanson of Freeport.

*****

Logan James Green, born at Corewell Health Pennock on March 25, 2025 to Dusty Lee Green and Cody Ray Green of Dowling.

*****

April Lynn Conner, born at Corewell Health Pennock on March 25, 2025 to Linda Ray and David Conner of Hastings.

*****

Hudson Thomas Khanfar, born to Adam and Christine (Maurer) Khanfar of Lansing Feb. 17, 2025.

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VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— APRIL 4-10 —

Those interested can register for these events and find more information at cedarcreekinstitute.org/events/

April 1-30 — Michigan Frogs and Toads. Can you hear a "peeper?" Michigan is full of interesting frogs and toads. "Jump" into a hike and learn about these unique species. The Michigan Frogs and Toads hike is free and self-guided on the Lupine Trail.

April 1-30 — April Storybook Walk: "Frog vs. Toad" by Ben Mantle. Frog and Toad want to eat the same fly! Soon, their constant arguing wakes a hungry alligator. Follow the trail to find out where this surprising story ends. After your storybook adventure, stop by the Visitor Center to pick up an activity sheet. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the Black Walnut Trail.

Friday, April 4 — Specialty Dinner: Pancake Supper, 5 p.m.

Monday, April 7 — Native Plant Gardening at the Freeport District Library, 6 p.m.

Thursday, April 10 — Healthy Planet, Healthy People: Citizen Science, 11 a.m. Join Research and Community Engagement Manager Ellen Holste as she explores "citizen science." What is it? How is it connected to our health? Holste will provide the historical background and the current climate of the citizen science movement.

More information about these events can be found on the Institute's website at CedarCreekInstitute.org.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 3 – Spring Break Movie Day: "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," 1 p.m.; Movies, Memories and Milestones watches a 1940 film starring Alice Faye, Don Ameche and Henry Fonda, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 4 – Friday Story Time 10:30 a.m.

Monday, April 7 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; PAWS for Reading, 10 a.m.; Poetry from the Shadows, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 8 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; Lego Day, 10 a.m.-noon; Teen Movie Day: "Shrek," 1 p.m.; PAWS for Reading, 1 p.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.; Lift Every Voice Book Club, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9 – Game Day: Kids' Board Games, 10 a.m.; community health workers at HPL, 10 a.m.; open art studio, 11:30 a.m.; Game Day: Teen Board Games, 2 p.m.

More information about these and other events is available by calling the library, 269-945-4263.

Anieta Earlene Baum



Anieta Earlene McMullin Baum, age 87, passed away on March 27, 2025, at Butterworth Hospital surrounded by her family. She was the daughter of Hastings Fiber Glass Founder, Earl Lawrence and Virginia (Coggins) McMullin.

Earlene was preceded in death by her brother, Earl Wayne McMullin, her parents, and her husband of 67 years, Larry Baum.

Earlene and her husband Larry met while attending Hastings High School. After graduation, she attended Albion College, and he joined the United States Air Force. They were married in 1956 and moved to Topeka, Kansas, where Larry was stationed, and Earlene worked for the U.S. Government Finance Office at the Air Force Depot. They returned to Hastings when Larry finished his tour of duty in 1959, and they both worked diligently to help establish Earlene's father's business, Hastings Fiber Glass Products.

Earlene took care of all the office operations. She was controller for many years, a member of the Hastings Fiber Glass Board of Directors, and Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation. She worked at the company her father founded for over 65 years.

Earlene had a love for the Hastings Community and served it in countless ways. She was the first woman to serve on the Hastings City Bank Board of Directors, a position she held for over 20 years. Her service included many years on the grant committee of the Barry Community Foundation, as well as many other board positions, including the Barry County United Way, the YMCA, and the Hastings Women's Club. She also served as President of the Hastings Camp Fire Council.

Earlene had a love for her years at Hastings High School and for the friendships she formed. She organized all of her many class reunions and looked forward to spending time with her classmates. She received the Distinguished Graduate Award for the Class of 1955, and she and Larry received the Buzz Youngs Award and the Liberty Bell Award for their contributions to the community. They were instrumental in making Hastings a "go-to" destination by providing funding to upgrade school, hospital, and community facilities. Major improvements included a dialysis center, a new hospital surgical center, and both the Thornapple Plaza, and the Hastings Performing Arts Center - places for the community to come together and enjoy live entertainment.

Faith and church were an important part of Earlene's life. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church for over 70 years, serving as President of the Women's Association, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, and Secretary of the Endowment Committee. She sang in the Church Choir for over 46 years.

Surpassing her love for community was Earlene's love for and devotion to her family.

Surviving are her first child, Karen (Tim Pederson); son, David (Susie), who presented Earlene and Larry with three grandsons: Jason (Becky); Brian (Tauri) and Nick. Son, Kevin (Tamara) added three granddaughters to Earlene's Family: Rachel (Ryne) Larowe, Michelle, and Kayla. Great-granddaughter, Talia Larowe, nieces Jennifer McMullin, Sarah (Rick) Reed, Denise Stolz, and nephews Randy McMullin and Gary Stolz also survive, including double cousins Helen Czaplinski of Arkansas City, KS, and Janice Mullin, of Enid Oklahoma.

Visitation will be held on Friday, April 4, 2025, from 10 a.m. - Noon, with a Funeral Service to follow at Noon at First Presbyterian Church, N. 405 M-37, Hastings, MI 49058.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Barry Community Foundation, (https://www.barrycf.org/giving/), 231 S. Broadway St.; Hastings, MI 49058 or the YMCA of Barry County, (https://ymcaofbarrycounty.campbraingiving.com/), PO BOX 252, 2055 Iroquois Trail; Hastings, MI 49058.

Arrangements by Girrbach Funeral Home. To leave an online condolence visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

Annual spring weight restrictions continue to be lifted on state roads

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) continues to adjust spring weight restriction on state roads in an annual move to protect roads.

Effective 6 a.m. Monday, March 31, weight restrictions were lifted on all state trunkline highways from the southern Michigan border north to and including the following route beginning on M-20 at the US-31 intersection near New Era then east on M-20 to the US-131 interchange in Mecosta County, then north on US-131 to the south US-131 Business Route/M-20 interchange in Big Rapids, then east on M-20 to the US-10 interchange in Midland County, then east on US-10 continuing to M-25 to the M-15 intersection in Bay City, then south on M-15 to the M-46 intersection in Tuscola County, then east on M-46 ending at M-25 in Port Sanilac.

Frost restrictions are still in effect for the remainder of the state and will be imposed and enforced on all state trunkline highways north of the route detailed above. State routes typically carry M, I, or US designations.

In the restricted areas, the following will apply:

• On routes designated as "all-season" (designated in green and gold on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be no reduction in legal axle weights.

• All extended permits will be valid for oversize loads in the weight-restricted area on the restricted routes. Single-trip permits will not be issued for any overweight loads or loads exceeding 14 feet in width, 11 axles, and 150 feet in overall length on the restricted routes.

• On routes designated as "seasonal" (designated in solid or dashed red on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be a posted weight reduction of 25 percent for rigid (concrete) pavements and 35 percent for flexible (asphalt) pavements, and maximum speed of 35 mph for some vehicles.

Drivers must follow the speed limits for weight restricted roads, per state law. Go online for speed restrictions for trucks and the rules for propane fuel delivery and public utility vehicles.

When roads that have been frozen all winter begin to thaw from the surface downward, melting snow and ice saturate the softened ground. During the spring thaw, the roadbed softened by trapped moisture beneath the pavement makes it more susceptible to damage. This contributes to pothole problems already occurring due to this winter's numerous freeze-thaw cycles.

MDOT determines when weight restrictions begin each spring by measuring frost depths along state highways, observing road conditions, and monitoring weather forecasts. Weight restrictions remain in effect until the frost line is deep enough to allow moisture to escape and the roadbeds regain stability.

County road commissions and city public works departments put in place their own seasonal weight restrictions, which usually, but not always, coincide with state highway weight restrictions. Signs are generally posted to indicate which routes have weight restrictions in effect.

Continued on next page

Worship Together



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SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH OF DELTON
7025 Milo Rd., P.O. Box 765, (corner of Milo Rd. & S. M-43), Delton, MI 49046. Pastor Roger Claypool, (517) 204-9390. Sunday Worship Service 10:30 to 11:30am, Nursery and Children's Ministry. Wednesday night Bible study and prayer time 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
502 E. Grand St., Hastings. Pastor Tod Shook Wednesdays - Bible Study - 6 to 7 p.m.; Sunday School - 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Service - 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. www.cbchastings.org.

WOODLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
203 N. Main. Pastor: Kathy Smith. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.; Worship 10:15 a.m.

CHRIST THE KING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)
328 N. Jefferson Street. Worship 10 a.m. Nursery provided. Pastor Peter Adams, contact 616-690-8609.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH
805 S. Jefferson. 269-945-4246 Pastor Father Jeff Hanley. Mass 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Mass 8 and 11 a.m. Sunday.

LIFEGATE COMMUNITY CHURCH
301 E. State Rd., P.O. Box 273, Hastings, MI 49058. Pastor Scott Price. Phone: 269-948-0900. Website: www.lifegatecc.com. Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Wednesday Life Group 6:30 p.m.

HASTINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
309 E. Woodlawn, Hastings. Matt Moser, Lead Pastor. Sunday Services: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service; Senior High Youth Group 6-8 p.m.; Young Adults 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Family Night 6:30-8 p.m., Kids 4 Truth (Children Kindergarten-5th Grade), 6:30-8 p.m. Middle School Youth Group; 6:30 p.m. Bible Study and Prayer. Call Church Office 948-8004 for information.

PLEASANTVIEW FAMILY CHURCH
2601 Lacey Road, Dowling, MI 49050. Pastor, Steve Olmstead. (269) 758-3021 church phone. Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

This information on worship services is provided by The Hastings Banner, the churchesand these local businesses:

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TURNING BACK THE PAGES

'In My Time' Part IX

BANNER AUG. 24, 1995

JOYCE F. WEINBRECHT

Robert E. Faulkner was born in 1910 and grew up in Barry County in the villages of Delton and Middleville. He shares with our readers his memories of those early years. He continues:

"I kept looking for a job. I went to the offices of the gasoline companies, Standard Oil, Sunoco and Texaco. Texaco had just fired the attendants at one of the stations because of shortages.

"So, against all odds, I found a job. My pay was $12 a week. Maurice, the manager, received $14.

"I will never forget Maurice. When he was laid off his previous job, he bought a 10-cent can of top dressing and a 10-cent paintbrush. He would stand on the sidewalk of a busy downtown location. In those days, many of the cars had cloth tops. When a car with a weatherbeaten top would pull up to the curb, he would offer to top dress the car for 50 cents. He would usually make one or two dollars. With this, he fed his family. He was very proud he had never taken any welfare help from anyone. He was a rugged individualist.

"The first day on the job, the manager and area superintendent were in the station when a customer drove in. 'Bob, go over and take care of that customer,' the superintendent directed me. Actually, I was nervous, as I had never worked in a filling station. I believe I had neglected to mention this fact when I applied for the job.

"The customer was driving a Hudson. 'I need my clutch changed,' the customer said. I did know that a Hudson had a wet clutch, but that was all I knew. I had the customer drive the car onto the lift. He stood by as I raised the car. I didn't know what to do, and I had visions of being fired my first day on the job.

"I turned to the customer and said, 'This is my first day on the job. The manager and superintendent are watching. I know nothing about a wet clutch. Will you tell me what to do?'

"He proved to be a wonderful person. He acted as though we were just carrying on a friendly conversation. Under his direction, I completed the job. I was not so lucky when I faced the next crisis. As I recall, the station was open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. The manager and I were the entire workforce. My shift was from noon until nine. Then, I was off until the next noon. My work week was 56 hours. I actually started work the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, so my next shift started at noon on Thanksgiving Day.

"I had just started to clean the toilets and sweep the station when a Cadillac drove in. The driver was a well-dressed, rather pompous individual who wanted his oil changed. I put the Cadillac on the lift and with a wrench in one hand, got under the engine. The biggest engine that I had ever seen was a Model A Ford. I searched for the lug that would drain the oil and proceeded to remove it. When I did, a small amount of heavy oil ran into the pail. I knew at once that I had drained the transmission. Then, I got out the tank that held the transmission fluid to repair my mistake. However, my customer was watching me like a hawk. He asked what I was doing. When I frankly told him what had happened, he was furious. 'Get that grease in there and get my car off of the lift,' he hollered.

"I wished afterward that I had been smart enough to tell him, with a friendly smile, that we were giving a free transmission fluid change with each oil change and he was lucky, as this was the last day. But I usually think of what I should have said hours or days later. My ex-customer drove to a Texaco station a few blocks down and not only got his oil changed but also told them about the dumb so-and-so who had drained his transmission.

"When I told my friend Slim from the Sinclair station about the incident, he asked how much oil I put in. 'I filled it clear up,' I replied.

"Slim said, 'I'll bet he didn't drive far before the oil came up the stick and he got it all over him.'

"I expected to get fired, but nothing ever came of it. As I recall, we sold gasoline six gallons for a dollar.

"I bought a 1924 four-cylinder Buick for $20. It ran like an expensive car. In the winter, I filled the radiator with two gallons of kerosene at a cost of 28 cents. I couldn't afford alcohol, which was the antifreeze of choice. The car ran fine all winter. The tires were bad and that size tire was no longer made, so I finally sold the car for $25.

"One day in March, when I was in downtown Battle Creek, I heard a newsboy shouting, 'Extra! Extra! All banks closed!' Banks had been failing all over the country and when Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated on March 4, 1933, one of his first acts was to close all the banks (a nationwide bank holiday). After a few days, those that were still sound were allowed to open. This restored the people's confidence in banks, but many people had lost their life savings because there was no deposit insurance, and many banks were insolvent.

"Late in March, we were notified that Texaco was going to lease its stations and give us first chance. Neither of us had the desire to lease an obviously failing station. Again, I was out of work.

"Maurice, still the aggressive individualist, went to the bulk plant of Sun Oil Company and asked for work. 'We don't have a thing,' he was told. Maurice noticed a lot of barrels out in the yard. 'Is that where they belong?' he asked. 'No, we were going to pile them in the shed,' the manager told him. 'Could I put them in there just for something to do? I need the exercise, it won't cost you anything,' Maurice told him. 'Oh well, go ahead.'

"After Maurice had finished, he asked the manager if the barrels were where he wanted them. 'Here, I'll give you 25 cents an hour for your work today, and if you'll work for that, come back tomorrow. A year later, Maurice was put in charge of Sun Oil's bulk plant in Jackson (Michigan).

"To Maurice, adversity was a challenge which he met with spirit, initiative and determination.

"While at the Texaco station, I rented a room from Mrs. Payne about three blocks from the station. She was a very gracious lady in her 60s. Her son, who lived with her, was president of the Battle Creek Bricklayers' Association. The union had succeeded in avoiding wage cuts, and though there weren't many bricklayers employed, the union rate was 75 cents an hour, just as it had been before the Depression. I asked him if there wouldn't be work for a lot more people if they would agree to a wage cut. Of course, as long as he was working, he wasn't interested in any such idea.

"Mrs. Payne made delicious potato doughnuts and many times when I came from work, she would have a plate of fresh, warm doughnuts. They were the best I ever ate.

"I was at a loss for where to find another job when a thought occurred to me. Back before my time, a man named Minor Keeler had started a little brass factory in Middleville. The company made brass drawer pulls, knobs, hinges and so forth for furniture. Mr. Keeler had moved his factory to Grand Rapids, where it flourished. His son now ran the factory and it was rumored that he gave preference to Middleville persons in search of work.

"I put on my only suit and drove over to Grand Rapids to the Keeler factory, entered the main office and asked to see Mr. Keeler, the president. My gall paid off, and in a few minutes, I was ushered into his office. 'I'm from Middleville looking for work. By way of introduction, my mother, then Grace Matter, was your teacher when you were in elementary school.' 'We do have an opening for a timekeeper,' he replied. 'Come in at seven o'clock tomorrow morning.'

"I could not believe my good luck. An office job, a timekeeper. I reported for work the next morning dressed in a white shirt, tie and suit. Imagine my embarrassment when I was directed to a factory desk situated between two rooms of workers in work clothes. Even the foreman wore a blue shirt and work pants. My job was not an office job, and my clothes were completely out of place.

"There were card index files on the desk. The cards had a job number, job description and piece rate for every operation in the shop. Most of the jobs they were running were sample runs of maybe 40 or 50 pieces. I had to count the pieces run, by putting one in one pan on a balance and the rest in the opposite pan, by quantity. This had to go on the worker's card, then I had to look up the rate for the next job. In half an hour, I had a long line of people waiting to weigh out and check in. Since their pay was determined entirely by the number of pieces they produced, you could understand their frustration.

'I felt overwhelmed, but after a few days I began to know the job numbers and it became easier. Of course, I never wore my suit or tie or white shirt again. I worked 50 hours a week and was paid 35 cents an hour for a total of $17.50. That is until President Roosevelt decided to improve things. He got Congress to pass a National Recovery Act, or the NRA. This raised the wages to a minimum of 40 cents per hour, and the limited work week to 40 hours. My wage of $17.50 went to $16, and at the same time, prices went up. My 40-cent meal now cost 50 cents.

"Ever since then, I've had little use for liberal do-gooders who are always trying to legislate solutions to our problems. Two examples are price controls on goods and rents and minimum wage laws, both of which are counterproductive. Price and rent controls, produce shortages and minimum wages produce inflation and unemployment.

"Every Saturday, I hitchhiked to Battle Creek to see Juanita and every Sunday I hitchhiked back. I never had much trouble getting a ride.

"The week before Mother's Day, the foreman pushed a carful of boxed candy around the shop and asked each worker to buy a box for Mother's Day. Only one man refused to buy. He told the foreman, 'I have two children at home who don't have shoes and I just can't afford to buy candy.' That night, the foreman laid him off permanently.

"I kept my job until after New Year's Day 1934. We were required to work that day. We took inventory and then cleaned up our workstations. After that, we stood in our stations while the superintendent, a former Army sergeant, inspected our work. He looked over my desk, and finding nothing wrong, ran a hand, covered with a white glove, down behind the desk and showed me the dust he had wiped up. 'You don't do your work very well, do you?' he snapped. That was my Happy New Year.

"My parents had moved back to Delton and I went home one weekend and decided not to return. I got little satisfaction when the foreman called from Grand Rapids asking me to come back and I refused. I was still full of anger at the way the superintendent had treated me."

To be continued...



A view of Middleville's E. Main Street, looking west, circa 1930.



Robert and Juanita Faulkner circa 1932.

Continued from previous page

For weight restriction information and updates, call 800-787-8960, or you can access this information on MDOT's website at Michigan.gov/Truckers, under "Restrictions." All-season routes are designated in green and gold on the MDOT Truck Operators Map, which is available online. You also may sign up to receive email alerts.

Trucking companies located in New Jersey and Canada can obtain information by calling 517-373-6256. — *MM*

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30076-DE
William M. Doherty

Court address: 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390

Estate of Benny Ralph Eye. Date of birth: 5-29-1944.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Benny Ralph Eye, died 2-25-2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Christina Tremain, PO Box 251, Edmore, MI 48829, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 03/26/2025
Michael J. McPhillips P33715
121 West Apple Street, Suite 101
Hastings, Michigan 49058
269-945-3512
Christina Tremain
PO Box 251
Edmore, MI 48829
989-572-8256

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Samantha M Tobias, A Single Woman to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Chemical Bank, A Michigan Banking Corporation, its successors and assigns , Mortgagee, dated September 2, 2010, and recorded on September 17, 2010, as Document Number: 201009170008639, Barry County Records, said mortgage was assigned to U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 21, 2020 and recorded September 21, 2020 by Document Number: 2020-010005, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Four and 68/100 ($57,724.68) including interest at the rate of 4.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of HASTINGS, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 87 and the West 1/2 of Lot 86 of Hastings Heights, according to the Plat thereof, filed in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 41, records of Barry County, State of Michigan. Commonly known as: 205 E NORTH STREET, HASTINGS, MI 49058 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 12.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: April 3, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00224-1
(04-03)(04-24)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
BARRY COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Barry County Road Commission, 1725 West M-43 Highway, P.O. Box 158, Hastings, MI 49058, until 11:00 A.M. April 9, 2025 for the following items.

Specifications and additional information may be obtained at the Road Commission Office at the above address or at our web site at www.barrycrc.org.

Asphalt Paving – Road Widening

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to waive irregularities in the best interest of the Commission.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS .
OF THE COUNTY OF BARRY

David Solmes	Chairman
Jim James	Vice Chairman
Jamie Knight	Member

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Amy Landhuis, an unmarried woman

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union

Date of Mortgage: November 27, 2017

Date of Mortgage Recording: December 12, 2017

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $106,835.93

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Woodland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land in Southeast 1/4 of Section 16, Town 4 North, Range 7 West, described as commencing 30 rods West of the Southeast corner of said Section 16; thence North 271.8 feet; thence West 82.5 feet; thence South 271.8 feet; thence East 82.5 feet to the place of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 178 W Broadway St, Woodland, MI 48897-9709

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: April 3, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1557462
(04-03)(04-24)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FAMILY DIVISION
BARRY COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE
CASE NO. and JUDGE
25-30010-NC
WILLIAM M. DOHERTY

TO ALL PERSONS, including: whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: Brandon Charles VanDrunen, has filed a petition for name change. A name change hearing will be held on 4/30/2025 @ 1:45 p.m. before Judge William M. Doherty to change the name of: Brandon Charles VanDrunen to Braxton Brennan.

NOTICE OF COURT PROCEEDING

Attn: Ronald James Rose

The following Complaint for Paternity has been filed in the Barry County Circuit Court:

Tiffany Leigh Papesh v. Ronald James Rose

Case No. 2024-782-DP

Hon. Vicky L. Alspaugh

You have 28 days to file a written answer with the Court and serve a copy on the other party, or take other lawful action.

If you do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in Plaintiff's complaint.

Please contact attorney John M. Danian with any questions at (616) 560-5980

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Brandon L. Eberly, a single man and Danielle M. Dewey, a single woman

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): TH MSR Holdings LLC f/k/a Matrix Financial Services Corporation

Date of Mortgage: May 18, 2015

Date of Mortgage Recording: May 22, 2015

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $48,445.26

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Baltimore, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 2 of Cappons Country Acres, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats on Page 52.

Common street address (if any): 4565 S M 37 Hwy, Hastings, MI 49058-9380

The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 27, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1556727 (03-27)(04-17)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on May 8, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Carmen Pirok and Jason Pirok, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: April 14, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: April 23, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $224,989.80

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Rutland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 111 in Pine Haven Estates No. 4, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 55, Barry County Records.

Common street address (if any): 1879 Pine Blf, Hastings, MI 49058-8128

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: April 3, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1557359
(04-03)(04-24)

CAREER POSTING

Barry County Road Commission
Operations Superintendent

Are you an experienced leader in road maintenance and infrastructure operations? The Barry County Road Commission is seeking a highly motivated **Operations Superintendent** to oversee and manage our daily road maintenance activities, ensuring safe and efficient transportation for our community and a consistent, engaging, and safe environment for our road warriors.

Why Join Us?

- Competitive salary range: **$82,000 - $100,450**
- Full-time, exempt management position
- Opportunities for professional development
- Paid Holidays, Vacation Time, Competitive Insurance Package, 401K
- Work in a dynamic environment where your contributions make a tangible impact on the community

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Brandy Casey, HR Coordinator (bcasey@barrycrc.org) by **April 21, 2025**. For more information, visit www.barrycrc.org click "Employment" on the homepage.

Join us in shaping the future of Barry County's roadways!

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
BARRY COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

The Barry County Road Commission is offering for sale (8) 2024 GMC 2500HD Crew Cab SLE pickups.

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Barry County Road Commission, 1725 West M-43 Highway, P.O. Box 158, Hastings, MI 49058, until 10:30 AM, Monday, April 14, 2025 for the following items. Please mark outside of bid envelope with truck number i.e. #240020 or #240080. Specifications and additional information may be obtained at the Road Commission Office at the above phone number or at our website www.barrycrc.org., please make an appointment for all viewings of the trucks.
NOTE: All trucks are sold as is.

(8) 2024 GMC 2500HD Crew Cab SLE Pickups
4WD Duramax Diesel, Allison Transmission
Air, Cruise, PW & Locks, Remote Start, Heated Mirrors

1-Titanium Rush #240040 – Orange Title – approx. 6,200 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Thunderstorm Gray Truck #240010 – Green Title – approx. 26,000 Miles- Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Cardinal Red Truck #240060 – Orange Title – approx. 15,000 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
(#240060 includes color matching fiberglass truck cap)

1-Thunderstorm Gray Truck #240050 – Orange Title – approx. 16,500 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Sterling Metallic Truck #240120 – Orange Title – approx. 21,170 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Black Onyx Truck #240140 – Orange Title – approx. 17,500 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Summit White Truck #240300 – Orange Title – approx. 8,300 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Sterling Metallic Truck #240310 – Orange Title – approx. 8,600 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500

NOTE: All mileages are approximate – trucks are being driven until they are sold.

ORANGE TITLES are MUNCIPAL TITLES.

The board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to waive irregularities in the best interest of the Commission.

SPORTS



Delton Kellogg sophomore Sara Schipper leaps in to keep the ball from Fennville's Christina Mendoza (12) as teammate Luna Lemus looks on from behind the play during their match Monday in Delton.



Delton Kellogg senior goalkeeper Johanna Houtkooper slides over to make a save during her team's 3-1 win over Fennville Monday at Delton Kellogg High School. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Breakaways lead to enough goals for DK win

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Sophomore Sara Schipper poked the ball out of a crowd in the midfield and sophomore teammate Claire Barker was off to the races.

Barker broke through the offensive half and slid a left-footed shot by the diving Fennville goalkeeper to give her team a 2-1 lead with about seven minutes to go in the first half. It was a quick answer to a game-tying goal by Fennville that had come just about two minutes earlier. The Delton Kellogg varsity girls' soccer team went on to a 3-1 win over the Tigers to improve to 2-0 on the young season Monday in Delton.

Barker had a pair of goals, and a number of other good opportunities. The Panthers time and again created scoring chances with through balls that led to breaks in on net, but more often than not the Fennville defense was able to rally at the last second and thwart a good chance on net.

"We did a good job of creating chances," Delton Kellogg head coach Alan Mabie said. "Claire, she hurt her leg in the last game a little bit, so she was a little gimpy, but we still did create a lot of chances to get through.

"When we get a little more experience, I think we'll get a little better. It's hard with only 12 in the second game of the season."

Having just 12 players on the roster didn't mean the Panthers weren't able to be strong in the end, even if they are still building their conditioning. Barker knocked home a corner kick from senior teammate Teagan Hamlin with 10:08 to go in the second half to add a little insurance to the Panthers' 2-1 halftime lead.

"It is very tiring, but I think we're doing a really good job of encouraging each other and keeping good energy, trying our best, conserving our energy, resting on defense as coach Mabie tells us to do," Barker said.

There is some pretty good experience from one end of the field to the other for DK, with senior Johanna Houtkooper back for her fourth season in goal and senior Ellyse Balckburn continuing to push forward in the Panther formation.

Blackburn scored the Panthers' first goal of the game about 12 and a half minutes in. The Fennville goalkeeper mishit a punt, and the ball spun backwards in the DK end. Barker was able to get to the ball and get it to Blackburn who put it in the net.

"Towards the end of last year, I started moving [Ellyse] up. She goes to Martin. She runs track for them," coach Mabie said. "She has speed. I put her in the middle or up front, and she has gotten a lot more confident to go after the ball and do it. That wasn't quite there before. She also has been more dedicated the past couple years. She hadn't been able to because of how the season goes and the track meets. She has been able to come to more stuff. The end of last year she really started coming on and this year too."

Fennville answered with a goal by senior Nadia Perez with 9:27 to go in the first half, tying the game at 1-1. Houtkooper came sliding out away from her line to make a save, and knocked down another Tiger chance in the scramble that followed, but eventually Perez finished the ball.

Houtkooper didn't have to make too many outstanding saves like that, but partly because she did such a good job of cleaning up things in her box and helping direct her teammates on what coach Mabie said is a fairly inexperienced defensive back line.

"Jo did a really good job of calling what is open, talking to her team, stepping up to the ball when needed. I think we all played really well tonight," Barker said, adding that Houtkooper's leadership in the back is really important and extends all the way up the field really.

"She is obviously back here, so she can see the entire field and tell us what is open and who is on who. She can see. She is an experienced player. She knows they're probably going to send it back here or put it over here," Barker said pointing one way and then the other. "She has really good feedback and it definitely helps. She has a loud voice as well. I definitely use it."

The DK girls had a match with Hastings set for Tuesday postponed, so for now their next contest is scheduled for April 15 at home against Pennfield.

Delton Kellogg opened the season with a 1-0 win over the Kalamazoo Homeschool Cougars last Thursday with Barker scoring the game's lone goal off an assist from Schipper. Houtkooper had 18 saves in that one.

Four goals by Cross take down Saxons at TKHS

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Junior attacker Tealy Cross converted on a penalty kick midway through the first half and then added three more goals throughout the course of play to lead the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' soccer team to a 5-1 win over Hastings Friday in Middleville.

The victory is part of a 3-1 start to the 2025 season for the Trojans who opened OK Gold Conference play Monday with a 4-0 win over West Catholic in Middleville.

Senior Kalli Koning converted a penalty kick for Hastings Friday after junior teammate Dez Mathis drew a foul in the box TK goalbox.

The Saxons are now 1-4 overall this season. They were bested in matches with Gull Lake and Caledonia March 22 at the Gull Lake Invitational, and took a 4-0 win over Ionia in Hastings last Wednesday, March 26.



New Hastings varsity girls' soccer coach Megan Deal talks things over with her team during halftime of her team's non-conference match with Thornapple Kellogg inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville Friday, March 28. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Cross and her teammates were able to take advantage of a fairly young Saxon back line-

"She is very aggressive, and she can shoot from the outside," first-year Hastings head coach Megan Deal said. "We are just lacking experience on the outside I would say. We have so many seniors that are more centers, mids and forwards, not necessarily defense.

"Last year, Tim [Schoessel] did more of a diamond back with the four and I am doing more of a straight back. We're working out the kinks. We have a freshman that plays more on the outside and an exchange student, so it's new for them, but they're athletic enough to get back there and pull their weight. It's kind of a newer team."

The TK team has just two seniors too in Emma Geukes and Madilyn Chivis. Cross is part of a massive junior group.

"We all still have that close bond that we've all had my whole career," Cross said. "We all had such a good bond over the past three years. A lot of us have stuck together. There were nine of us freshmen year. That whole nine is still playing and still here, minus a few of the ACL injuries. We're all here together. We're all here training every day."

Cross had her own knee injury which popped up during club play in November. It hindered her junior varsity basketball season, but she feels pretty close to 100 percent now. She didn't appear hindered on any of her four goals Friday.

She drew the foul that earned TK a penalty kick with 23:33 to go in the first half, and she converted on the PK to give TK the lead. With 16:16 to go in the first half, the Trojans stole away a Saxon throw-in deep in the Saxons' end and Chivis soon chipped a pass to Cross in the center of the attacking third for an open chance on goal that put their team up 2-0.

TK took that lead into the half, and Koning's PK cut the TK lead in half. It was only a one-goal game for about four minutes. Cross ran on to a through ball behind the Saxon defense and put a shot by Hastings keeper Sadie Handord with 27:22 to go in the game. Cross pushed TK's lead to 4-1 by heading in a corner kick by Chivis with 12:51 to play in the game.

Chivis finished off the scoring by burying a shot with 2:59 to go after a little chip into the center of the attacking zone by teammate Alexa Eden.

"We were just moving the ball well," Cross said. "We were connecting. We all have this cross-town rivalry, so there is that extra fun out there playing against club teammates. We all had good energy, good vibes and we all wanted to work together. It was just fun."

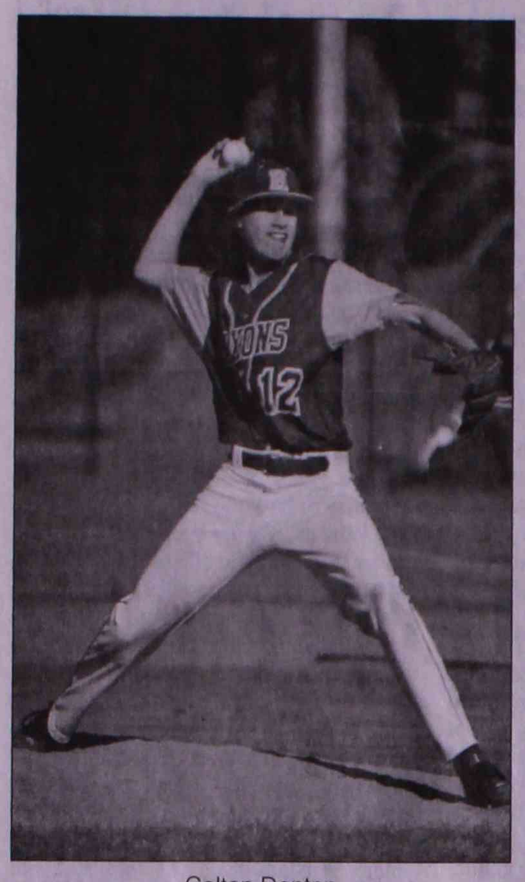
The Saxons had fun in their one win of the season, last week against Ionia.

"We did a really good job, we really practiced on working the ball to the outside and doing a lot of overlapping stuff," Deal said. "That seemed to help us a lot. Dez did a really nice job of coming to the outside, taking everyone out and then doing crosses. She had, I think three assists on the four goals."



Hastings goalkeeper Sadie Handord rises up to snag the ball out of the air as she is hit by Thornapple Kellogg junior attacker Page Abshagen during the first half of their match in Middleville Friday, March 28.

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS



Colten Denton

Saxons look to take advantage of their speed

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Pierson Tinkler has been a part of the Hastings baseball coaching staff for four years and he takes over as the varsity head coach this spring looking to give the Saxons a shot of energy.

It'll start on the basepaths where Tinkler is hoping to see his guys really put their speed and aggressiveness to use.

"One of the team's goals is to have over 100 team stolen bases," Tinkler said.

Hopefully, that'll manifest into a few more victories here and there for the Saxon team that won three games a year ago.

Back from that squad are junior catcher Jackson Hayes, junior Colten Denton who'll see time at pitcher, in the infield and outfield, sophomore catcher/infielder Tyler Frazer and sophomore outfielder Spencer Wilkins.

The team will look to get a boost from the additions of sophomore third baseman Grady Reed, sophomore outfielder Ethan Hawthorne, and senior shortstop/pitcher Dustin Lampart who previously played at Barry County Christian.

Tinkler said that starting with Lampart and Hayes, it is a solid pitching core. He also expects junior Parker Christie, junior Hunter Tomlinson, junior Scott Sanders and junior Gabe Drayer to contribute on the mound.

Tinkler likes the way his team's bats look in the early season so far too.

The one big thing this team lacks is experience. There are only three seniors on the squad and none of them played for the Hastings varsity last year.

The Saxons are currently 0-2 on the season. They were bested in a pair of ballgames at Plainwell last Thursday, March 27, 8-7 and 8-5 in a pair of five-inning games.

Frazer had a good start going 2-for-4 at the top of the Saxon line-up with a run and an RBI in the opener. Lampart had two hits too, and Wilkins went 3-for-3 with two runs scored and an RBI in the 8-7 loss to start the day.

Lampart started on the mound and went three innings striking out three and walking four while giving up seven runs, but only three of them were earned. Plainwell got to him for four hits. Tomlinson gave up one run in an inning of relief.

In game two, Lampart had two more hits with a run and an RBI. Reed was 3-for-3 with a run and two RBIs and Denton picked up his first hit of the season.

Hayes took the loos on the mound after getting the start. He was hit for six runs on four hits and four walks in 2.1 innings. He struck out two.

Between the two games the Saxons had nine stolen bases. Lampart had three in game two and Denton two. Wilkins had two in game one, Lampart one and Drayer one.

The Saxons had a pair of ballgames with Saranac set for Tuesday postponed. They'll return to action April 19 heading to Middleville for the Barry County Invitational.

The Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season starts for the Saxons April 22 at home with a double header against Jackson Northwest.

Tinkler said coming into the season the defending champs from Harper Creek are the team to beat with a solid core back for the Beavers.

Saxon softball adds talented freshman trio

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The youngsters are coming.

It has been a few years since the Hastings varsity softball team won more than a handful of games in a season, but head coach Dennis Redman sees a wave of talent on the way that is starting to arrive this spring.

He has added three freshmen and three sophomores to the roster.

"They are athletes and they are players," Redman said.

"These three girls have played enough ball around the state and around the country that they're not going to have a problem. They have played a lot of ball."

That freshman trio includes outfielder Lily Dingena who'll see time in the outfield and on the left side of the diamond, catcher Kayden Brown and shortstop/pitcher Kylee Bosworth.

The sophomore trio includes third baseman Audrey Aicken, catcher/outfielder Laken Hollars and pitcher/first baseman Meredith Ansorge. Ansorge did spend some time with the varsity last spring.

So far, Redman is pleased with the way the younger kids are being integrated into the culture of the program. The team's two seniors back this season are middle infielder Zoey Bennett and outfielder/catcher Victoria Tack.



Zoey Bennett

The junior group includes pitcher/first baseman Annemarie Allerding, and Nella Coipel, Sophia Greenfield, Chloe Aicken and Carissa Rosenberger who played varsity as a sophomore last year too.

Redman expects it to take a little more time for everyone to gel as a team, for the seniors to realize just how good the youngsters are, and for the youngsters to get used to the day-to-day of varsity ball, but he could see in the season opener last week in Plainwell his girls get better and better as the afternoon progressed.

Hastings swept the double header taking 17-7 and 14-10 wins over the blue and white Trojans.

The Saxons got big doubles from Ansorge and Bennett in the opener, and Redman was really pleased with his girls' play defensively. Allerding started in the circle and allowed just one run before Ansorge took over in relief.

Bosworth had a big two-run triple in the last inning of game two for the Saxons, and Bennett, Ansorge and Bosworth all had three hits. Ansorge spent time pitching in that one too.

Hastings had ballgames with Saranac set for Tuesday postponed. They are now set to head to Kelloggsville April 17 for a doubleheader, and then go to the Barry County Invitational in Middleville April 19. The Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season opens with a doubleheader against Jackson Northwest April 22 in Hastings.

Redman said this group is looking to be .500 for the season or better, and fighting for a spot in the middle of the I-8. He expects Northwest and Parma Western to be tough as usual, and Harper Creek and Pennfield to field pretty solid squads this spring too.

Thank You to these businesses for their support

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p.doezema@kw.com
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Shelbyville, MI 49344

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Joe Lyons & John Curtis, Owner/Operators
3305 West Quimby Road, Hastings, MI 49058
269.945.4240

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South of Hastings on M-37
www.southside4kids.com 269-818-1020

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HASTINGS NAPA
122 N. Jefferson Rd.
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269-948-9696

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS

Jensen filling leadership role for Saxon golf team

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings varsity boys' golf coach Ross Schueller will take the fun where he can get it.

This spring, he expects the fun to come in seeing the growth of a lot of his young golfers that will be competing for the Saxon varsity – and really he's seeing it already.

"One of the things I think I have noticed so far this year is, in terms of just sort of golf skill set, the guys just all swing with a better tempo," Schueller said. "There is a lot less of that tendency that happens in boys' golf where they're swinging for the moon."

"They're getting the message," he added. "The swings all look more fluid, natural. They look a little less like they're trying to kill it. That's a positive sign. Once they learn to swing in tempo there are a lot of good things that can start to happen."

Saxon junior Daniel Jensen has already made some good things happen on the golf course. He led the Saxons at the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship last spring, placing eighth, and tied for the team lead at regionals last year with then senior Owen Carroll.

Carroll was an outstanding leader, and Schueller wasn't sure how the more reserved Jensen would take to being a leader as one of the team's best and most experienced players.

"This is really his first time doing that. He has always been in the shadow of upperclassmen 'til this year," Schueller said. "He's taking that leadership role at practice, you can definitley see him maturing into that as a junior."

"He's talking guys through how the decision making works, how he plays, and helping the guys that are newer to competitive golf in how to get ready."

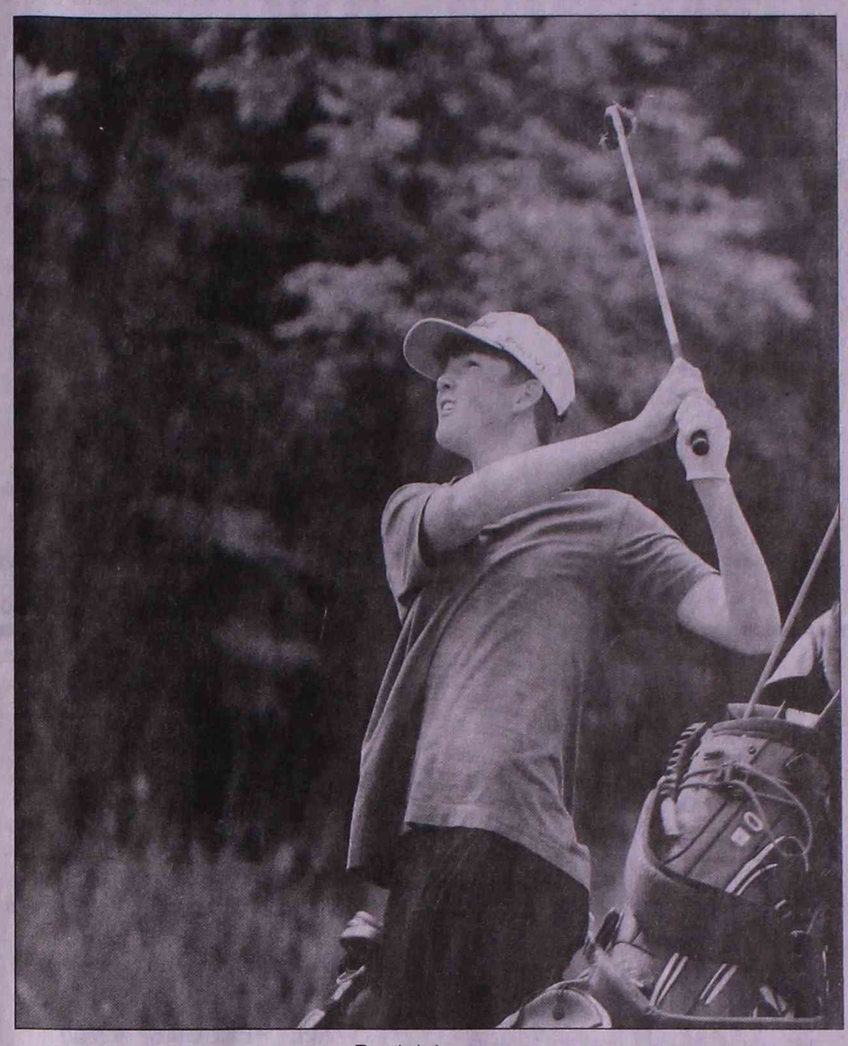
Junior Bronson Elliott will be moving up in the line-up this season for the Saxon varsity this spring, and Caden Cappon and Hunter Pennington are returning from the program looking to contributed to the varsity scoring this season.

Coach Schueller is also looking for good things from freshman Andrew Barton as he gets used to playing competitive golf. Coach said he has a naturally beautiful swing and good hand-eye coordination, and how he needs to see how things look when the pressure is on to score.

Looking to fill out some final scoring places for the Saxon varsity is a group that includes Spencer Crozier, Nathan Auten and Jordan Shirey.

"I am less concerned this year with placement and more about what the kids learn during the course of competition so that they're ready for next year," Schueller said of his young group. "Next year we start getting a little bit more serious. Some of these younger kids should be improved, and coming out of the middle school we have a pretty good pipeline of talent."

As far as conference competitions, Jackson Northwest should be solid again in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference. The Mounties were 13th at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Boys' Golf Finals in 2024 with a couple of sophomores and a junior in the line-up. Coach Schueller said he expects Harper Creek and Parma Western to be solid too.



Daniel Jensen

The Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season is set to begin April 14 at Binder Park Golf Course in Battle Creek.

Outside of conference and state competitions, coach Schueller is excited to be running some match-play events against other schools later on in the season.

"I think match-play is a fun format that allows maybe schools that aren't at the same competitive level to still play a competitive match against each other," Schueller said. "It is also another different kind of mindset in terms of how you play and I think it is an important skill set to learn."

A lot of new leaders for Saxon boys' track team

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It's a new look Hastings varsity boys' track and field squad this spring with

Former assistant coach Tony Knop is set to lead the program as head coach with assistance from Jamie Murphy, and on the track the seven state qualifiers from the Saxon team last spring all graduated or are no longer in the program.

"I am very excited to coach up this group of young men and women this season," Knop said. "Brian Teed and Lin Nickels were amazing mentors and I hope to continue the proud legacy of Hastings track and field."

Helping to carry on that legacy will be a trio of captains, senior Brandon Simmons and juniors Balian Marlette and Cardale Winebrenner. Simmons and fellow senior Micah Johnson make a solid distance duo for the Saxon team. Coach Knop said Marlette and Winebrenner have been invaluable assets in the sprints, jumps and hurdles.

"They bring a lot of knowledge and great work ethic, we will be leaning on them heavily this season," Knop said.

The Saxons have a few key throwers returning this season too in senior Isaaac Friddle and juniors Matthew Shults and Odin Twiss.

Simmons and Johnson are the only two guys back who had top ten finishes in a race on the track at the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championships last spring, as each accomplished that in both the 1600-meter run and the 3200-meter run. Simmons was a state qualifier in cross country last fall.

Renner (pole vault) and Marlette (long jump) had top ten conference finishes in the field in 2024.

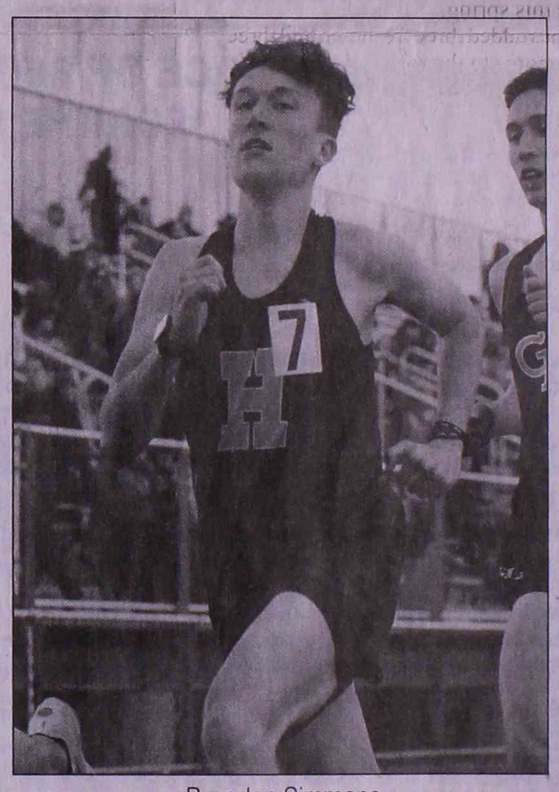
A few of the top additions to the squad this spring include sophomore Logan Kimmel, senior Luca DiBernardo, freshman Chuck Mattice, sophomore Spencer Wilkins and freshman Jonah Hamp. Wilkins and Hamp are dual sport athletes this spring Knop expects to contribute as they're looking like two of the fastest guys on the team.

Knop said that Kimmel and DiBernardo "have really shown some grit and speed as the first few weeks of the season have gone on. Chuck Mattice has been working hard and mixing it up with our veterans in throws."

"We have plenty of depth across the board," Knop said, adding that overall thought with it being a young group "we are working on the basics and focusing on stacking as many good reps as we can each day at practice."

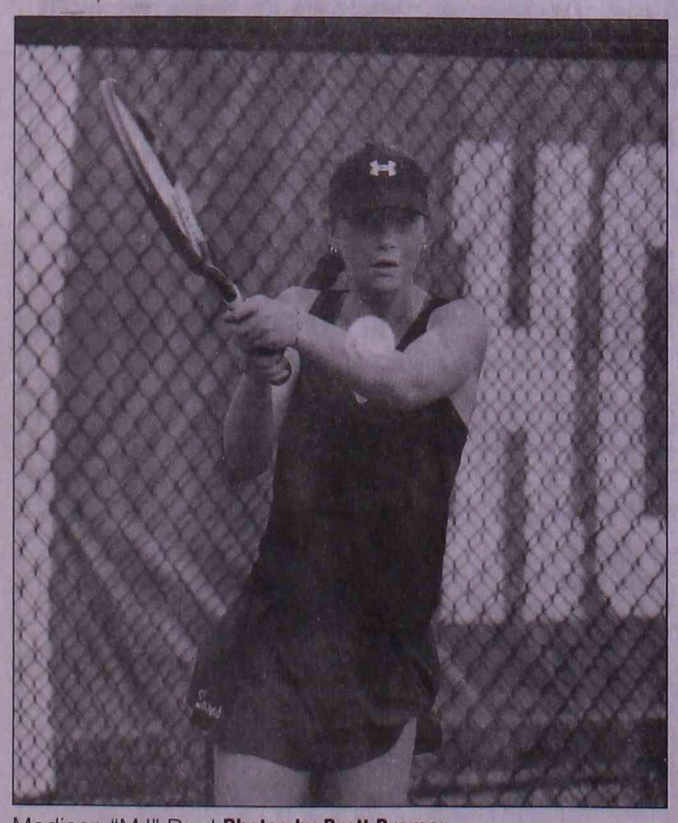
"This year will be a year for growth and improvement. We have a lot of talented and hard-working upperclassmen, but we are very heavy on underclassmen and first-year track athletes. There will be growing pains, but the goal for this season is to continue to instill a positive culture with an emphasis on work ethic, sportsmanship, and accountability."

Harper Creek is a team looking for more than growth this season. The Beavers should be one of the top teams in the state again while looking to capture an I-8 title. Parma Western should be one of the Beavers' top competitors in the conference. Harper Creek already took a conference win over the Saxons last week to open the season.



Brandon Simmons

The Saxons are scheduled to return to action April 14 at Jackson Northwest.



Madison "MJ" Deal **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Saxon tennis wins opener with solid group back

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It's a good start for the Saxons.

The Hastings varsity girls' tennis team started its season March 27 with a 6-2 non-conference win over Battle Creek Central.

Senior Madison Deal, bumped up from second singles as a junior to first now as a senior, took a 6-2, 6-4 win at the top spot over Central senior Bonnie Ferazzi, and fellow Saxon senior Lilyah Solmes pulled out a super tiebreaker 10-7 in her second singles match against Central's Ava Einhardt to score a win. After splitting sets 5-7, 6-4.

The Saxon singles line-up was rounded out by juniors Alexa Lilley and Gracie Wilson. Wilson is new to the singles line-up after two varsity seasons at doubles.

Hastings swept the four doubles matches against Battle Creek Central with a mix of youth and experience. Senior Isabella Gee and junior Lauren Gee, teamed up for another doubles season together, took over the number one spot for a straight set win.

Hastings had Sophia Haywood and senior Ella Fergusen in the second doubles spot, junior Alyssa Morton and senior Jordan Milanowski teamed up at number three, and a freshman duo of Lillian Edger and Lilly Randall at fourth doubles all score wins.

Parma Western remains a perennial power in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference this spring. The Panthers placed eighth in the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Girls' Tennis Finals in 2024 where they were joined by fellow state qualifying teams from the conference Harper Creek and Pennfield.

The Saxons are set to open the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season at Harper Creek April 21, with a few non-conference contests on the slate for when they return from spring break.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust

Beverly Raffler Revocable Trust dated August 30, 2018, as Restated. Date of Birth: 4/29/1942.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS/ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Your interest in this matter may be barred or affected by the following: The decedent, Beverly Raffler, lived in Barry County, Michigan, and died February 12, 2025. Creditors of the deceased are further notified that all claims against the trust estate will be forever barred unless present to: Douglas A. Raffler, at Chaigian & Tripp Law Offices, 1019 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, within 4 months of the publication of this notice. This notice is published pursuant to MCL 700.7608. If a probate estate is opened in the future for the decedent, this notice is intended to satisfy the requirements of MCL 700.3801.

Date: March 26, 2025

A. Michelle Lane P56725
1019 Trowbridge Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 332-3800
Douglas A. Raffler, Trustee
8724 Davenport Rd.
Woodland, MI 48897
(616) 902-6992

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30036-DE

Court address: 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390

Estate of Judith Ann Green. Date of birth: July 27, 1942.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Judith Ann Green, died January 15, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to William F. Green, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 03/13/2025
Stephanie S. Fekkes P43549
607 N. Broadway, Ste. A
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-1921
William F. Green
c/o Rhoades McKee, 607 N. Broadway, Ste. A
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-1921

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Trust

In the matter of The Reed Living Trust, dated November 10, 2014.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Colleen M. Reed, who lived at 4923 Lakefront Drive, Delton, Michigan 49046 died March 19, 2025 leaving a certain trust under the name of The Reed Living Trust, Dated November 10, 2014, wherein the decedent was the Settlor and Rhonda L. Wier was named as the Successor Trustee serving at the time of or as a result of the decedent's death.

Creditors of the decedent and of the trust are notified that all claims against the decedent or against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Rhonda L. Wier, the named Successor Trustee of 5337 Chippewa Trail, Prescott, MI 48756 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: March 27, 2025
David H. Tripp
202 S. Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-95875
Rhonda L. Wier
5337 Chippewa Trail
Prescott, MI 48756

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL CREDITORS:

Durwood A. Young (date of birth: April 15, 1933), who was the grantor ("Grantor") of the Durwood A. Young Trust under agreement dated April 12, 2018, as amended, and who lived at 745 – 146th Avenue, Caledonia, MI 49316, died on March 11, 2025. There is no personal representative of the Grantor's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Durwood A. Young Trust under agreement dated April 12, 2018, will be forever barred unless presented to its Trustee, Denise A. Christie, within four (4) months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: 4/1/2025
Trustee:
Denise A. Christie
745- 146 th Avenue
Caledonia, MI 49316

Trust Attorney:
Neil L. Kimball, P36653
Rhoades McKee PC
55 Campau Ave. NW #300
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 235-3500

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 25-30053-DE

Estate of Zachary Ryan Visser. Date of birth: 12/28/1995.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Zachary Ryan Visser, who lived at 9111 West Parmalee Road, Middleville, Michigan died 11/26/2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Grace Hull, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 W. Court St., #302, Hastings, Michigan 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 03/25/2025
Jeffrey A. VanMeter P49046
80 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 301
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
(616) 774-3020
Grace Hull
c/o 80 Ottawa Avenue, N.W., Suite 301
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
(616) 774-3020

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FAMILY DIVISION
BARRY COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30077-NC
HON. WILLIAM M. DOHERTY

TO ALL PERSONS, including: whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: Machelle Elizabeth Fanson, has filed a petition for name change. A name change hearing will be held on April 16, 2025 @ 1:45 p.m. before Judge William M. Doherty (P41960) to change the name of: Machelle Elizabeth Fanson to Machelle Elizabeth Darrah.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of The Humphrey Living Trust, dated August 30, 1993, as amended. Date of birth: 12/18/1920; 1/17/1925.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, James W. Humphrey & Anne M. Humphrey, died 06/02/2020; 12/20/2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to William R. Humphrey, Successor Trustee, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: Mach 27, 2025
William R. Humphrey, Successor Trustee
7755 Hayward Rd.
Delton, MI 49046
269-623-6033

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30038-DE
Hon. William M. Doherty

Court address: 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390

Estate of Lloyd Herman Simmons. Date of birth: 10/05/1944.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lloyd Herman Simmons, died 01/11/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Randi L. Sanderson, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: March 13, 2025
Stephanie S. Fekkes P43549
607 N. Broadway, Ste. A
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-1921
Randi L. Sanderson
c/o Rhoades McKee, 607 N. Broadway, Ste. A
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-1921

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION AND PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF BARRY COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN:

REGISTRATION:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Caledonia Community Schools, Delton-Kellogg Schools, Lakewood Public Schools and Woodland Township who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the appropriate Township or Village Clerk, the Office of the County Clerk, a Secretary of State branch office or other designated state agency; or can use the Online Voter Registration System at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register by mail or online with the local clerk is **Monday, April 21, 2025.**

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector must register to vote in person with proof of residency up to and including through the day of election *(MCL 168.497)* at the appropriate Clerk's office listed below at the following times:

Municipality	Address	Regular Business Hours	Hours on Saturday, May 3, 2025
Baltimore Township Jana Bishop, Clerk (269) 721-3502	3100 E. Dowling Rd Hastings MI 49508	By appointment	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Barry Township Debra Knight, Clerk (269) 623-5171	11300 S. M-43 Hwy Delton MI 49046	Wednesdays 9:00 am – noon & 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Carlton Township Amanda Carothers, Clerk (269) 945-590	85 Welcome Road Hastings, MI 49058	Wednesdays 10:00 am – noon and by Appointment.	8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Castleton Township Marcia Scramlin, Clerk (517) 852-9479	915 Reed St. Nashville MI 49073	Wednesdays 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Hope Township Deborah Jackson, Clerk (269) 948-2464	5463 S. M-43 Hwy Hastings MI 49058	Wednesdays 9 am – noon & 1:15 pm – 3:00 pm and by appointment	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Johnstown Township Sheri Babcock, Clerk (269) 721-9709	13641 S. M-37 Hwy Battle Creek MI 49017	Monday & Wednesday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm and by appointment	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Orangeville Township Melody Risner, Clerk (269) 664-4522	7350 Lindsey Road Plainwell, MI 49080	Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Prairieville Township Rod Goebel, Clerk (269) 623-2664	10115 S. Norris Rd Delton MI 49046	Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Thornapple Township Precincts 1 & 2 Cindy Ordway (269) 795-7202	200 E. Main Street Middleville MI 49333	Monday – Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm	7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Woodland Township Elizabeth Busk, Clerk (269) 367-4915	156 S. Main St Woodland MI 48897	By appointment	7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Yankee Springs Township Tom Hopkins, Clerk (269) 795-9091	284 N. Briggs Rd. Middleville MI 49333	Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Fridays 9:00 am - noon	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

All offices will be open on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE FOLLOWING JURISDICTIONS WILL BE VOTING ON THE PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED AND LISTED BELOW:

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL
EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE
AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW
18.7741 MILLS FOR 5 YEARS AND
.5 MILL FOR 5 YEARS FOR
HEADLEE RESTORATION PURPOSES, IF NECESSARY

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Caledonia Community Schools, 8948 Kraft Avenue SE, Caledonia, Michigan 49316-9411, telephone: (616) 891-8185.

DELTON KELLOGG SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL
FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF
NOT TO EXCEED $43,000,000

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Delton Kellogg Schools, 327 North Grove Street, Delton, Michigan 49046-9701, telephone: (269) 623-1500.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL
FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF
NOT TO EXCEED $29,950,000

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Lakewood Public Schools, 223 W. Broadway Street, Woodland, Michigan 48897, telephone: (616) 374-8043.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

WOODLAND TOWNSHIP
PROPOSAL RENEWAL OF MILLAGE
FOR FIRE, CEMETERY AND TOWNSHIP
IN THE AMOUNT OF 2 MILLS

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the Woodland Township Hall, 156 S. Main Street, Woodland, Michigan 48897, telephone: (269) 367-4915.

Sample ballots may be viewed at www.michigan.gov/vote.

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the appropriate clerk's office.

PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the electronic equipment that will be used for the May 6, 2025 Special Election are scheduled for the following dates, times and locations in the respective jurisdiction as listed below.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of Michigan election law.

Baltimore Township – 3100 E. Dowling Rd, Hastings on April 5, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
Barry Township – 155 E. Orchard St., Delton on April 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Carlton Township – 85 Welcome Rd., Hastings on March 31, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.
Castleton Township – 915 Reed. St., Nashville on April 16, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
Hope Township – 5463 S. M-43 Hwy., Hastings on April 16, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
Johnstown Township – 13641 S. M-37 Hwy., Battle Creek on April 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
Orangeville & Yankee Springs Townships* – 7350 Lindsey Rd., Plainwell on April 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Prairieville Township – 10115 S. Norris Rd., Delton on April 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Thornapple Township (Precincts 1 & 2)* – Caledonia Township Hall, 8196 Broadmoor Ave SE, Caledonia on April 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Woodland Township – 156 S. Main, Woodland on April 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

**For this election only, the voters in the following municipalities will be consolidated as follows:*
Thornapple Township, Precincts 1 & 2 will vote at Caledonia Township in Kent Co. – ADDRESS
Yankee Springs, Precinct 2 will vote at Orangeville Township, 7350 Lindsey Rd, Plainwell MI 49080

Sarah M. VanDenburg, Barry County Clerk on behalf of:

Baltimore Township Clerk, Jana Bishop
Barry Township Clerk, Debra Knight
Carlton Township Clerk, Amanda Carothers
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SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS

Stars are there, now Saxons look to build depth

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxons have some all-starts capable of dominating any event, but also are working to build some depth in the first season under new head coach Erin Slaughter.

That was evident in the team's first Interstate-8 Athletic Conference dual at Harper Creek last week where sophomore Bella Friddle won four events, sophomore Caroline Randall won two and sophomore Ember Twiss added a win in the 100-meter dash.

Despite those seven victories, and a couple runner-up finishes by senior Zoe Watson in the throws, the Beavers swept their way through the relays and won the 17-event meet by more than 70 points.

Randall, a state cross country medalist who missed her freshman track and field season due to injury, should get the Saxons points in distance races all season long. Friddle qualified for the state finals as a freshman in the high jump, long jump and pole vault and took the state championship in the high jump.

"We also have some freshman and newbies this year that should help us out with points, like Jayden Evans, Annabelle Kuck, and Bella Strimback, helping us out in field events and sprints," coach Slaughter said. "We have several others that we are hoping can develop into real point earners by the end of the season or next season as well. We should also be gaining back [junior] Olivia Friddle at some point in the season, as she is healed from her injury."

Olivia Friddle could provide a boost in the sprints and the throws. She was a state qualifier in the pole vault and the shot put as a freshman in 2023 before a knee injury kept her sidelined throughout all of 2024 – an injury felt by the Saxon varsity volleyball, girls' basketball and girls' wrestling squads as well.

"We are overall a very young team. We have increased a bit in numbers, but we are still pretty small. Our juniors and senior classes are very light, and we are leaning on our underclassmen to keep us going, especially in the hurdles and sprints, as we are lacking in those areas," coach Slaughter said.

"We are focusing this year as a building year. We should do okay in the conference, and we are aiming to try girls in lots of places to see where their biggest strengths are," she added.

The Saxons were third in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference a year ago, and can shoot for that again. Harper Creek and Coldwater were the two toughest match-ups for the Saxons a year ago according to Slaughter, and should be tough again. She had a close watch on the conference competition as an assistant coach.

"I feel really grateful to be taking over a strong program from Brian Teed and Lin Nickels," Slaughter said. "They have left quite the legacy of success, and I hope to continue to uphold that in the future with everything that they have taught me. I'm also excited to coach with Tony Knop, as he has a wealth of resources to pull from and has been after it during the off season as I've been busy coaching other sports. We are thankful to have coach [Jamie] Murphy back with us again and leading our throwers to glory, and Jason Slaughter is a great resource for teaching students leadership skills, pole vault, and hard work ethic."



Bella Friddle

HHS soccer squad brings ten back for new coach

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity girls' soccer team is in pretty good shape through the middle with the return of Kalli Koning, Kennedy Lewis and Dezarae Mathis as a fine spine this spring.

Hastings also adds goalkeeper Sadie Handord in net, a sophomore who plays some club soccer.

There isn't a whole lot of club experience on the Saxon roster. Most of it lies in Handord, Mathis and Koning.

The Saxon team is off to a 1-4 start to the season with a win over Ionia and a loss to Thornapple Kellogg after falling in two tough games at the Gull Lake Invitational against Gull Lake and Caledonia.

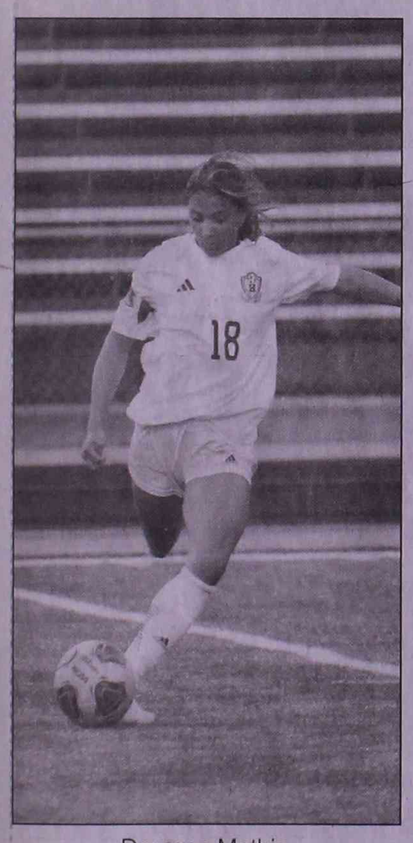
There are about ten girls back for the Saxon program this season a list that also includes Brianna Darling, Riley Gurtowsky, Bella Kensington, Hannah Sorensen, Alyson Miller, Jordyn Winters and Hayley Rasey.

Lakaya Evans is up from the JV a year ago.

The Saxons also have a head coach up from the JV last year, new leader Megan Deal who takes over for Tim Schoessel.

The Saxons had a match with Delton Kellogg postponed Tuesday. The plan is for the Saxons now to return to action after spring break with matches at Tri County April 14, Lakewood April 17 and then South Haven April 18. The next home contest for Hastings is set for April 21 against Ottawa Hills.

The Saxons will follow that match up with the Bengals by visiting Harper Creek to start the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season April 23.



Dezarae Mathis

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE BARRY COUNTY TRIAL COURT - CIRCUIT DIVISION
25- 1 74 -CZ
ORDER TO ANSWER
HON. VICKY L. ALSPAUGH

THE CONSERVATORSHIP OF
DWIGHT H. WESTER,
Plaintiff,
V.
LISA EVILSIZER and
SCOTT R. MUGRIDGE,
Defendants.

David H. Tripp (P29290)
Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2900
Attorney for Plaintiff

TO: LISA EVILSIZER
SCOTT R. MUGRIDGE

Based on the pleadings filed in the above entitled case, it is ordered that Defendants, Lisa Evilsizer and Scott R. Mugridge, file a Notice of interest in the real property located in the Village of Middleville, County of Barry, State of Michigan, described as:

LOT #3 OF BLOCK 3, OF THE RECORDED PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ACCORDING TO THE EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD.

Commonly Known As: 309 E. Main Street, Middleville, MI 49333

At least 3 days prior to the hearing dated noted below to assert any interest in the above described property. If the Defendants, Lisa Evilsizer and Scott R. Mugridge, fail to do so that shall constitute a default in the above entitled matter, and on the 28th day of May, 2025, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, this Court shall take proofs and shall terminate whatever interest Lisa Evilsizer and Scott R. Mugridge, have in and to the above described property unless a Notice of Interest in the Real Property is filed or unless Defendants or their representatives appear on that date and time.

Dated: March 26, 2025
Vicky L. Alspaugh (P42572)
Drafted by: David H. Tripp (P29290)
Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway,
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2900

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Dennis R. Allen and Josephine M. Allen, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage 1 Incorporated Date of mortgage: May 21, 2019 Recorded on May 24, 2019, in Document No. 2019-005031, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Nine and 23/100 Dollars ($117,429.23) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: Parcel 1: Part of Lot(s) 5 and 6, Block 14 of VILLAGE OF WOODLAND according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 21 of Barry County Records, described as: Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Section 16, Town 4 North, Range 7 West; thence North 953.5 feet; thence West 33 feet for the place of beginning; thence West 132 feet; thence North 66 feet; thence East 132 feet; thence South 66 feet to the place of beginning. Parcel 2: A part of Lots 7 and 9 of Block 14 and a strip of land 1 1/2 rods wide on the West end of Lot 9 of the VILLAGE OF WOODLAND described as commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot 7 of Block 14 of the Village of Woodland according to the recorded plat thereof, for the place of beginning; thence North 15 feet along the East line of said Lot 7; thence West to a point 1 1/2 rods West of the West line of said Lot 9 of Block 14; thence South to a point 1 1/2 rods West of the Southwest corner of said Lot 9; thence East along the South line of said Lot 9 to the Southeast corner of said Lot 9; thence North along the East line of said Lot 9 to the Southwest corner of said Lot 7; thence East along the South line of said Lot 7 to the point of beginning. Parcel 3: Part of Lots 5, 6 and 10 of Block 14 of the original VILLAGE OF WOODLAND, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats on Page 21 and vacated Green street adjacent thereto described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 16, Town 4 North, Range 7 West; thence North 953.5 feet along the West line of Section 16; thence West 33.0 feet at right angles for the true place of beginning; thence South 6.0 feet; thence West 363 feet to the center of vacated Green Street; thence North along the center of Green Street to a point 24.75 feet West of the Northwest corner of said Lot 10; thence East 231 feet along the North line of Lot 10 to the Northeast corner thereof; thence South to a point West of the place of beginning; thence West 132 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as 217 N Main St, Woodland, MI 48897 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1555640 (03-13)(04-03)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Arden F Burd and Virginia J Burd, Husband and Wife to Fifth Third Mortgage Company , Mortgagee, dated April 13, 2015, and recorded on April 20, 2015, as Document Number: 2015-004008, Barry County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Fifth Third Bank, National Association, successor to Fifth Third Bank, as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company by an Assignment of Mortgage dated December 09, 2015 and recorded December 10, 2015 by Document Number: 2015-011927, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Five and 86/100 ($114,685.86) including interest at the rate of 4.25000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Maple Grove, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: A parcel of land located in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 6, Town 2 North, Range 7 West, described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Section 6, Town 2 North, Range 7 West; thence North 00 degrees 19 minutes 12 seconds East along the East line of said Section 1329.33 feet to the Northeast corner of South 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section; thence North 88 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds West along the North line of said South 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4, 575.00 feet to the place of beginning; thence South 00 degrees 19 minutes 12 seconds West parallel with said East Section Line 396.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds West parallel with said North line of the South 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 300.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 18 minutes 12 seconds East 396.00 feet to said North Line; thence South 88 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds East along said North line 300.00 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 5850 BIVENS RD, NASHVILLE, MI 49073 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: April 3, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Fifth Third Bank, National Association, successor to Fifth Third Bank, as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 23MI00269-1

(04-03)(04-24)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - FAMILY DIVISION
BARRY COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30056-NC
WILLIAM M. DOHERTY

TO ALL PERSONS, including (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable) whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: Sierra Raine Wagner has filed a petition for name change. A name change hearing will be held on 4/23/2025 at 2:00 p.m. at 206 W. Court St., Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058 before Judge Hon. William M. Doherty to change the name of Sierra Raine Wagner to Weston Blakely Wagner.

TK ladies win Wayland Invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' track and field team took the championship at Friday's Wayland Invitational.

Already one of the state's top hurdlers, TK senior Brooklyn Harmon set her personal record in the 100-meter hurdles to win that race. She clocked in at 15.06 seconds, and she was one of three TK ladies in the top four in that race. Freshman Amya Gater placed third in 16.72 and junior Mia Hilton was fourth in 16.86.

There were three TK ladies in the top ten in the 300-meter low hurdles too led by Hilton who was the runner-up in 46.91. Gater placed fourth in 50.01 and freshman Addison Rocco was ninth in 58.27. All three ladies set their PR in that race.

Harmon, Gater and Hilton also teamed with Amya's big sister, junior Payton Gater, to win the 4x400-meter relay at the end of the day in 4:12.59.

In the field, TK senior Emma Dykhouse won the shot put with a personal record throw of 35-4 and senior teammate Lilly McKeown also set her PR with a seventh-place mark of 30-9.

TK also had runner-up finishes in the girls' meet from Amya Gater in the long jump at 15-4 and Hilton in the pole vault with a PR of 9-0. Payton Gater was third in the high jump at 4-6 and third in the long jump at 15-3.75, while also adding a runner-up time of 1:01.47 in the 400-meter dash. Dykhouse added a fifth-place long jump mark of 14-8.5. Kimberlin Zavalza-Nava was fourth in the high jump for TK also clearing 4-6.

TK senior Ava Crews placed second in the 1600-meter dash for TK in 5 minutes 34.48 seconds and second in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:32.31.

The TK ladies outscored runner-up Plainwell 852-707 at the top of the seven-team standings. Coopersville was third with 702.5 points.

TK ladies filled the top of the standings. In the 100-meter dash TK had Jordyn Fitros fourth, Dykhouse fifth and Sydney Martin ninth. In the 200, Fitros was third and Martin seventh. Behind Payton Gater in the 400, Claira Kovich was ninth and Madison Kietzman tenth. Int he 800, TK had Isla Tilleman fifth and Peyton Hardy seventh. There were three TK ladies in the top ten in the 1600 too with Hardy eighth and Breanna Schut tenth. In the 3200 TK had Carmen Reynolds seventh and Alaina McCrumb ninth.

TK also had teams third in the 4x100-meter relay, third in the 4x200-meter relay and fourth in the 4x800-meter relay.

Wayland took the boys' championship on the day with 893 points. Plainwell was second in the boys' meet with 718 points. The TK boys placed fifth as a team.

TK senior Jacob Draaisma got his outdoor season off to an outstanding start winning the 1600-meter run in 4 minutes 44.17 seconds and the 800-meter run in 2:03.82.

The TK boys had a pair of top ten finishes in two field events. Camden Peter was sixth in the high jump at 5-4 and Jackson Smith also cleared 5-4 to place eighth. Junior Luke Archer was sixth in the pole vault clearing 9-6 and senior Hunter Tietz placed ninth getting over the bar at 9-0. Senior Jake Kelley added a tenth-place mark of 38-9 in the shot put.

Trojan sophomore Brandon Velting set his PR in a couple sprints placing sixth in the 400-meter dash in 53.96 and tenth in the 200-meter dash in 24.75. Another sophomore, Ethan Strait, was seventh in the 3200-meter run in 11:47.42 for TK and he also placed tenth in the 1600 in 5:24.52.

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